THE TIMES

35P

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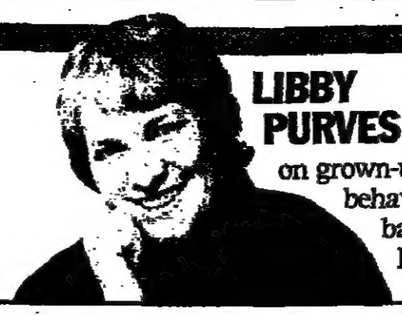

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Fiancée witnessed car chase murder

Driver dies in 'road rage' stabbing

By Stephen Farrell

A YOUNG father has died after a passenger in a car he overtook stabbed him at least 15 times and slashed his throat at the end of a three-mile chase along unlit country lanes.

Lee Harvey, the fifth man to die this year as a result of road rage, was left bleeding from multiple wounds in the middle of the road as his attacker's car drove off. He died in the arms of his fiancée, who was slightly injured.

Detectives were last night looking for the shabby F-registration Ford Sierra that chased the couple between Burcot and Alvechurch in Hereford and Worcester, late on Sunday night. Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston said: "You could call it road rage, to us obviously it is murder."

Mr Harvey, 25, and his fiancée, Tracey Andrews, had been on their way home from an evening out in their white Escort RS2000 when they overtook the Sierra along the A38 near the Forest public house. The other driver gave chase, flashing his lights, driving bumper to bumper and exchanging obscene hand gestures with Mr Harvey.

The pursuit continued along unlit single track lanes until the Sierra overtook Mr Harvey, who either decided or was forced to stop in Coopers Hill, a few hundred yards from his home. As Miss Andrews looked on from the car, the two drivers argued, pointing their fingers and shouting.

The confrontation appeared to end and the Sierra driver returned to his car. But as he did so, his passenger climbed out and attacked Mr Harvey, stabbing his head, neck and upper body. He continued to slash his victim after he fell to the ground and when Miss Andrews tried to intervene, she suffered a cut eyebrow. The Sierra then drove off, leaving Mr Harvey to die in the road.

Lee Harvey: stabbed then throat was cut

Superintendent Johnston said Mr Harvey did not appear to know his attackers. "This was a vicious, vicious crime. This was a sustained and vicious assault, there are some 15 wounds to the head, face and body, and clearly that must indicate some loss of control and vindictiveness."

Superintendent Johnston appealed to the Sierra driver and another passenger, who were not involved in the attack, to come forward. The killer was described as a very overweight white man aged about 25 who was wearing a dark donkey jacket. The slim driver looked much younger, was about 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins tall with short dark hair. Their car was thought to have left the road three-quarters of a mile further down the lane and would probably have a damaged front nearside.

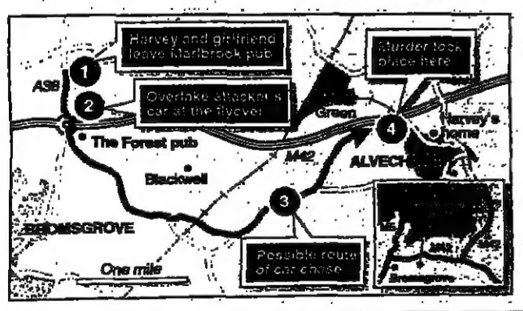
Mr Harvey, a former bus driver, and Miss Andrews, 27, had been engaged for two years and shared a flat in Alvechurch with their two children from previous relationships — Mr Harvey's five-year-old daughter, Danielle, and Miss Andrews's daughter Carla, who is six.

The killing is the latest in a series of road rage attacks and has marked similarities to the murder in May of Stephen Cameron, who was also stabbed and left bleeding to death in front of his fiancée. Mr Cameron was killed after he and the driver of a Land Rover Discovery got out of their vehicles to argue at traffic lights on the M25 sliproad at Swanley, Kent. Police are still seeking Kenneth Noye, who was cleared of murder after killing a policeman in the 1980s, in connection with the attack.

Other road rage victims include a cyclist who died after banging his head on the ground when a taxi driver swerved towards him. The taxi driver was last month jailed for 4½ years.

In May, a passenger was shot dead in London after the car he was travelling in did not stop after a minor accident, and in February, another passenger was beaten to death with a steering wheel lock in an argument about flashing headlights.

Other incidents have led to a doctor being jailed for pulling a starting pistol on a passenger in a dispute over a parking space, and another driver was jailed for five years after biting off another's nose and breaking the hip of a woman who tried to help.



ANDRE CAMARA

Lady Scott at her Battersea home yesterday some hours before the meeting to consider her husband's future

I'm on the wagon, says Scott

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

SIR NICHOLAS SCOTT, the Tory MP, rose at 6am yesterday to reveal in a series of radio and television interviews that he had given up drinking. The information, however, was aimed at wavering supporters in the Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association rather than at viewers of BBC breakfast television, and was part of a carefully contrived strategy.

A group of 12 of Sir Nicholas's closest constituency supporters had gathered at his home on Sunday morning for a meeting to rehearse the best line of defence and attack. "He was told to fall on his sword, admit he had drunk too much in the past, but say he has since fought to conquer the problem," one Scott supporter said.

After Sir Nicholas, 63, a former minister, had breakfast with his wife Cecilia and eight-year-old daughter Amber at his terraced Battersea home, he was collected by a BBC car at 7am and taken to the BBC's Millbank studios for an interview on the Radio 4 *Today* programme at 7.20. *Today* was chosen because so many members of the association listen to it.

Sir Nicholas stuck to the script agreed on Sunday, blaming his drinking on stress associated with being a Northern Ireland minister in the 1980s. "I have drunk very, very little over the past 18 months," he said. "It was a problem at one time. I think Northern Ireland started it.

"But my wife and I have discussed it very seriously. I have given her an undertaking that I won't drink in future. I shall renew that pledge to the association tonight."

Lady Scott, whose offer to speak at last night's selection battle had been rejected at the strategy meeting, listened at home. Sir Nicholas then moved into a nearby studio for the BBC breakfast television cameras. He repeated the line about press distortion of the incident in which he was found face down in the street at this year's Tory Party conference.

He insisted that he now drank "mainly" orange juice and fizzy water, having cut down on alcohol. This was necessary, he said, "because a couple of years ago I think I was drinking too heavily. I didn't have a drink problem, but I was drinking too heavily."

Sir Nicholas was arrested for drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident 18 months ago. He was convicted last March. In the interview he added that anyone who knew him knew that he had limited his drinking "in the main" to orange juice and fizzy water.

Sir Nicholas then moved to a third studio to record a programme for BBC Westminster. He was driven back to his home to continue working on his opening and closing speeches to the meeting of the association. The telephone was switched off all day to ensure that he was not interrupted.

At midday he was collected by car for a lunchtime interview on ITN. The invitation to appear on BBC *Newsnight* was kept in his desk drawer. It would be accepted only if he won last night's vote.

Sir Nicholas returned to Battersea for a quiet lunch. In mid-afternoon he and his wife went for a long walk in Battersea Park. They returned home to polish his speeches to the association and also drafted a winner's and loser's statement.

Sir Nicholas Scott

Daniel Johnson, page 16

Clarke refuses to budge on EMU policy

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner in Brussels

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday set his face against changing the Cabinet's wait-and-see policy on the single currency after reports that the Prime Minister might attempt to do so before the general election.

The Chancellor appeared to be locked in a trial of strength with a Cabinet majority as he gave a warning that ditching the present stance of leaving options open at the election would be both "senseless" and "preposterous".

Mr Clarke, at a meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels, took several opportunities to dismiss fresh reports that John Major was trying to abandon the wait-and-see line before the election and go to the country on a pledge to save the pound. He stopped short of threatening to resign if the policy changed but his words raised serious doubts over how he could stay if he were to be overruled.

However, Downing Street officials, while emphasising that the policy remained unchanged, appeared to be leaving open at least the prospect that it could be reviewed before the election. They said the Government would "take a decision on EMU (European monetary union) when it was appropriate to take a decision".

Informed sources close to the Prime Minister, however, emphasised last night that he was unlikely to change the policy. In April when the Cabinet decided on staging a referendum on the single currency, Mr Major said in an official statement that the Government would be "keeping our option open at the next election". When he reaffirmed that policy on October 5 in an

Continued on page 2, col 1

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16

Halifax holds mortgage rate

The Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, is resisting pressure to follow Abbey National and lift its loan rate.

Halifax is holding mortgage rates at 6.99 per cent in spite of the move by its biggest rival to lift loan rates by a quarter percentage point. Increases by the Coventry and the Northern Rock brought to five the lenders that have put up rates ..... Page 27

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Bullied clerk wins action

By Adrian Lee and Frances Gibb

LAWYERS predicted a surge of legal actions over bullying at work after a solicitor's clerk yesterday won a landmark private prosecution against his former employer.

The £200-a-week clerk, Joel Parkes, took out summonses against Robert Layton, a sole practitioner in Acton, after being sworn at and grabbed for failing to photocopy court papers. Layton was convicted of assault after Haringey magistrates in north London heard that he went red with rage, shouted obscenities and struck Mr Parkes on the shoulder.

The solicitor now faces a Law Society investigation and possible disciplinary proceedings which could lead to him being struck off.

Mr Parkes, 36, brought the action after the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges. Two witnesses working at the same firm declined to give statements to police. But Mr Parkes issued summonses and both were forced to give evidence.

Awarding £30 compensation and £785 costs to Mr Parkes, who is now studying to become a solicitor, magistrates rejected a claim by Layton's counsel, Anthony Arlidge, QC, that it was a trivial incident that happens in offices "day in, day out".

Lawyers are predicting a rise in legal actions over bullying at work. Last week new research for the Institute of Personnel and Developments showed that one in eight people had been bullied in the past five years. More than half of those said

Continued on page 2, col 4

"Dad, are things happening at the office that you want to talk to us about?"

More students struck by meningitis

TWO Southampton college students were diagnosed as having meningitis yesterday. They bring to eight the number of cases since November 16. Two more occurred in October. A York University student also has the disease.

Ann-Marie O'Connor, 19, from Acton, and Samantha Milroy, from Stockport, have died of the illness at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Parents grieve, page 6

Stuart: celebrity adviser

Moira Stuart dresses up the news in genes

By Carol Midgley and Nigel Hawkes

THE BBC television presenter Moira Stuart yesterday became the latest celebrity newsreader to join the ranks of the so-called "great and good".

Ian Taylor, the Science Minister, announced she had been appointed as a "human face" to the Human Genetics Advisory Committee.

Last year Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, appointed ITN's Trevor McDonald as chairman of the newly created Better English Campaign, a steering group with the serious aim of declaring war on sloppy standards. Nick Ross, a Radio 4 presenter and anchorman of BBC Television's *Crimewatch UK*, is now considered an authority on crime prevention. In 1993 he was invited on to the National Board for Crime Prevention and is an active member of the Crime Concern National Youth Campaign.

The *Channel 4 News* presenter Jon Snow combines his full time job in television with chairing several charities. Nicholas Witchell, the BBC newsreader, is involved with several charities, and Anna Ford is patron of the Turville Trust, an organisation set up to build a holiday centre for deprived children in Buckinghamshire.

But perhaps the busiest of the celebrity newsreaders is the BBC's Martyn Lewis, who at the last count had put his name to no fewer than 17 charities.

The Human Genetics Advisory Commission will be chaired by Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Its first meeting is expected to be early in the new year.

Speaker spoils the fun after MP invokes insulting tradition

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

"CAN I ask our blond and blue-eyed — if not exactly Finnish — Secretary of State, with his balding and brown-eyed junior minister . . .?"

Rhodri Morgan got no further. "These personal remarks," protested Madam Speaker, "have no place in this chamber." She told Morgan to rephrase his question, avoiding unpleasant descriptions of the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, and the junior minister, Jonathan Evans.

But as personal remarks go, this windy, burbling, frizz-haired, crag-faced sub-Patrick Moore of a Labour spokesman on Wales was mild at Welsh Questions yesterday. Contrast his gentle mockery with Mr Evans's predecessor as minister at the Welsh Office, Rod Richards (Clwyd NW). Speaking of Welsh Labour councillors, Mr Richards said: "They're all the same: slimy, short, fat and fundamentally corrupt."

"When I hear that name," the Prime Minister is said to have remarked of Euro-rebel Sir Richard Body (C, Holland with Boston) "I hear the sound of white coats flapping." The quip was not meant to be repeated, but that is a risk any politician runs. "I wish that cow would resign!" muttered the (then) Northern Ireland minister, Richard Needham (C, Wiltshire N) into his (insecure) mobile telephone. Margaret Thatcher took it well, observing only that if this was the worst they said, she could live with it.

Over the past year, I have been assembling a mountain of clippings recording the things politicians come to wish they had never said. A fellow-mischief-maker called Phil Mason — a magpie of parliamentary archives — has helped, and together we have compiled an anthology going back centuries.

The Baroness Thatcher comes out of any selection of unwise *personal* remarks with dignity: the butt of much abuse, she herself was rarely personal. A personnel report, rejecting her for a job with ICI in 1948, noted: "This woman is headstrong, obstinate and dangerously self-opinionated." Some 40 years later, President Mitterrand said that she had "the eyes of Caligula and the lips of Marilyn Monroe". Calling her "empty-headed" on the Middle East, Jonathan Aitken explained: "She probably thinks the plural of sinus is Sinai." Aitken must now bitterly regret the jibe. Labour's Tony Banks, who accused her of "behaving with all the sensitivity of a sex-starved boa constrictor" regrets little. Sir Edward Heath hardly regrets replying (asked why Mrs Thatcher hated him so much) "I cannot say. I am not a doctor."

It is the prerogative of the great to be rude about each other; Herr Kohl took with good humour a greeting from Bill Clinton at a Nato summit in 1994: "I was thinking of you last night, Helmut, because I was watching the sumo wrestling on TV."

Along with his "white coats" remark, Major doubtless regrets calling some of his Cabinet colleagues "bastards". I do not know whether Labour's Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin & Bearsden), a brain surgeon, recants of the opinion he offered of his former colleague, the one-time MP for Leith, Ron Brown (who had smashed up his former girlfriend's flat): "There is nothing I can do for him professionally."

But then the Commons is a Lewis Carroll world where different rules apply. I looked down yesterday as Mr Morgan was silenced by the Chair, in mid-insult to Messrs Hague and Evans. All three men had been grinning happily. Miss Boothroyd was simply spoiling the fun.

☐ *Read My Lips* is published by Robson Books.

Clarke

Continued from page 1

article in *The Times*, Mr Major said Britain should stay in the negotiations to defend its national interest and prevent the rest creating a failed EMU.

But the Downing Street sources said it would be wrong to read any differences into the April 5 and October 5 statements. They were both based on the likelihood that the time to make a decision about EMU entry would be after the election. An informed source said that reports to the contrary were "wishful thinking".

Mr Clarke was questioned about Mr Major's reported desire to ditch the wait-and-see policy when he arrived in Brussels. His response was uncompromising. "I don't believe that for one moment anything of that kind is being contemplated. It simply isn't going to happen."

But he pleased the sceptics by succeeding in Brussels in winning guarantees that rules on the euro and the stability pact would not apply to Britain outside a currency.

For once, Britain had little to do with the tension among EU ministers yesterday, as Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, flexed Bonn's monetary muscles, holding out against the wishes of all other states except The Netherlands, to allow a measure of political latitude in the stability pact. But by last night Germany was edging towards a compromise on the circumstances in which a government would be fined for spending too much.

Towns 'face invasion of giant lorries'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW generation of 44-tonne "super lorries" could be allowed unfettered access to the main-road network from 1999 under proposals released yesterday by the Government.

The current tight restrictions on the Continental-style six-axle juggernauts would be dropped between 1999 and 2001, according to a consultation document from the Department of Transport.

John Watts, the roads minister, said the move would take 6,500 smaller lorries off the roads as hauliers switched to the larger vehicles. The lorries can currently be used only for journeys between rail freight depots.

Mr Watts said that the six-axle trucks would cause no more damage to roads, bridges and buildings than 38-tonne lorries — the biggest currently allowed — because the load would be spread over six rather than five axles.

Environmental groups said the proposals spelt disaster for Britain's country towns and villages. Since the last increase in lorry weights — to 38 tonnes in 1983 — lorry mileage had increased by 30 per cent and freight mileage by 42 per cent, said Lynne Sloman, assistant director of Transport 2000. "All research suggests that heavier lorries ar more dangerous and intrusive," she said.

Britain's largest rail freight company, English, Welsh & Scottish Railway (EWSR) also attacked the plan, claiming it would lose 20 per cent of its business, the equivalent of a million truck journeys year, to truck firms.

The Government is obliged under European legislation to allow 40-tonne lorries on the roads from January 1 1999 and favours extending the use of the vehicles, which are widely used on the Continent. Ministers believe the arguments for the larger lorries are unanswerable but have decided to carry out full consultation.

The Freight Transport Association said that the vehicles would save more than 300 million litres of fuel each year and would result in fewer lorries and less congestion. The freight industry about £300 million a year — a drop of nearly 8 per cent on the cost of operating the present heaviest vehicles.

EWSR said the transfer of gods from rail to road would result in thousands more lorries per year pounding through country towns and villages. Historic towns such as Marlborough and Devizes could see an extra 24,000 lorries a year, the M74 through the lowlands of Scotland an extra 47,000 lorries a year and the A6 through the Peak District an additional 19,000 a year, according to its calculations.

Letters, page 17

ADRIAN BROOKS

Joel Parkes, who won a private prosecution for bullying

Bosses face rise in bullying claims

Continued from page 1

bullying was commonplace at their workplace.

Melissa Compton-Edwards of the institute said: "Bullying behaviour typically consists of unfair and excessive criticism, publicly insulting the victim, ignoring their point of view and constantly changing or setting unrealistic targets."

Legal actions over bad treatment by bosses — whether bullying, harassment or overwork — are being categorised as "stress" claims and are likely to be brought in the civil courts.

Tania Sless, a solicitor with Davies Arnold Cooper, says there could be as many as 130 stress claims pending, although many may be settled out of court. They have been prompted by two rulings. In 1994, John Walker, a social worker, received £175,000 in settlement of his claim for a nervous breakdown caused by pressure of work. In 1995, Paul Pickering, a police officer, won an increased pension after proving he had been disabled by stress at work.

Jill Earnshaw, lecturer in employment law at the University of Manchester, says bullying claims are common in the United States. "Some may call these cases victimisation or persecution, but I would classify them as bullying in one form or another."

After yesterday's hearing, Layton, a solicitor for 16 years, said he would consider appealing. Mr Parkes, who is working for the Legal Aid Board while studying, said: "It was a nightmare working there. All I wanted was to see him in court for what he did."

Mr Parkes said he had arrived for work on May 17 to be confronted by Layton, who accused him of not having carried out work and began swearing violently when given an explanation.

"He punched me on the left shoulder and pulled me back as I was going past him. He raised his fist. It was a fight that was beginning. It was out of the blue. I pushed him and said 'Don't you touch me'."

Another solicitor, Raymond Berretto, stepped between the two as Layton lunged again, Mr Parkes said. "Bob was swearing and cursing, trying to get round him. He was growling and snarling with both fists clenched like he wanted to fight."

Under cross-examination by Mr Arlidge, Mr Parkes accepted that the blow was landed with an open hand.

Mr Arlidge said: "Is not Mr Layton, in the ordinary give and take of office life, as his employer, entitled to take hold of his arm?" To classify this as an assault would be "quite ludicrous", he added.

Adverts for bingo to be allowed on TV

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BINGO operators are to be allowed to advertise their clubs and prizes on radio and television and in cinemas under further government plans announced yesterday to lift restrictions on the gaming industry.

Betting shops will also be permitted to advertise their facilities in the printed media but not on radio or television.

The move was welcomed by big companies in the industry who claim their business has been hit by the success of the National Lottery and fear it will be further damaged by the imminent arrival of a midweek lottery draw. Under the proposals, the ban on the advertising of bingo on radio and television, including the amenities offered by clubs and the prizes to be won, would be lifted.

Advertisements would be required to conform with guidelines laid down by the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority and would not be allowed close to children's programmes. Betting shops will be allowed to advertise in newspapers, magazines and listings guides.

Simon Clarke of Ladbrokes said the move would particularly benefit small bookmakers. But he added: "All bookmakers are still urgently pursuing deregulation measures which will address the damage being done by the lottery and the threat posed by the arrival of a midweek draw."

The announcement is the latest in a series of initiatives designed to cut the red tape surrounding the gaming industry. Last month the Home Office published proposals to allow casinos to open in some of England's cathedral and spa towns, permit prospective members of casinos to apply for membership by post rather than in person and to give members access to other casinos within the same group. Payment is also to be allowed by debit card and the waiting time between applying for membership and being allowed at the gaming tables is to be halved to 24 hours.

Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, said the latest measures were well-balanced. "It is time we allowed betting shops to advertise their locations and, for bingo, which is a social 'soft' form of gambling, it makes sense to remove all the advertising restrictions in the gambling legislation which would mean operators could use broadcast media.

"I believe we are putting forward sensible and balanced proposals which will be of benefit to both bingo and betting shop customers and the respective industries."

The plans will be put to the deregulation committees in both Houses of Parliament before going ahead.

☐ The Government is still considering whether to allow public houses to open until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights after a consultation exercise disclosed deep divisions over the plan. Unless ministers move quickly it is unlikely the longer opening hours would be operating before the general election.

Labour drops pledge to end fundholding

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, will announce today that Labour has dropped its opposition to GP fundholding and has abandoned plans to replace the scheme in the immediate future. Mr Smith is expected to tell a health conference in London that Labour will still allow family doctors to continue buying health for their patients.

Labour has traditionally opposed this NHS reform, claiming it results in two-tier health care. The party's draft manifesto published in July said: "We will replace GP fundholding with GP commissioning." Concern from GP fundholders, who now care for more than 50 per cent of the population, has prompted Tony Blair to soften the policy.

Ulster beatings increase

There have been 276 so-called punishment beatings in Northern Ireland so far this year, Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, said. This is 59 more than the whole of last year. Of the attacks, 118 were by loyalist groups and the other 158 by republicans. The figures do not include punishment shootings. The Prime Minister said last week that an end to the beatings was a key condition to be met, with a ceasefire, before Sinn Fein would be allowed to enter all-party talks. Dirty tricks claim, page 6

Murders suspect held

A man who told police that he murdered two British women tourists on a beach four years ago is in custody in South Africa. Elijah Noam Sibiya, 24, told police that he had hacked to death Julie Goodwin, 32, and Elizabeth Over, 30, on the deserted beach in Sodwana Bay on the north coast of KwaZulu/Natal in November 1992. Magistrates in nearby Ubombo yesterday declined to accept the plea of guilty by the suspect and recorded one of not guilty, adjourning the case until December 23.

City tightens security

Armed police are to set up road blocks in and around Manchester in the run-up to Christmas as part of efforts, involving some 7,000 officers, to prevent a repetition of the IRA bombing of the city in June. Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George said yesterday: "At the moment there is no specific intelligence to suggest Manchester city centre is an IRA target this Christmas, but we cannot afford to be complacent." There will be a free confidential hotline to encourage people to report suspicious activities.

No action against police

Police officers involved in arresting an asylum seeker who died after being put in a neck hold will face no disciplinary action, the Police Complaints Authority said. An inquest jury ruled earlier this year that Oluwashijibomi Lapite, a Nigerian decorator, was unlawfully killed. He died after a struggle with police as he was arrested outside a club in northeast London in December 1994 on suspicion of possessing cocaine. Mr Lapite later collapsed in a police van and was driven to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

University head retires ill

A former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum is to take early retirement as Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia, after having multiple sclerosis diagnosed. Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, 58, left, will leave when a replacement is found. As the museum director from 1988 to 1995, she drastically improved visitor figures but attracted criticism for being too "popularist".

Airport fire safety fine

An airport was fined £12,500 for putting passengers' safety at risk by blocking off a fire exit during building work. If an emergency had occurred travellers would have headed to a marked fire exit at Luton airport only to find a sign saying: "Entry strictly forbidden — contractors only", Luton Crown Court was told. Beyond the door they would have encountered a building site, with scaffolding, heavy machinery and numerous obstacles. The airport admitted charges under the Fire Precautions Act.

The cream of waterbeds

A Dutch company is seeking a patent for the cattle waterbeds that it claims will boost milk yield. About 180 of the water-filled rubber mats, which can be heated, have been delivered to a dairy farm in England. The farmer is so pleased with them that he has ordered another 100. "It is good for a cow to lie comfortably," a salesman for the Dunlop-Enerka factory said. "Cows can be compared to top athletes. Under the best circumstances they will give their greatest performances."

US aims to beat jinxed Mars record

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS from the American space agency Nasa this morning hope to improve on the chequered record of recent missions to Mars.

Nasa's Global Surveyor, launched on November 7, is on its way, albeit with a defective solar wing, but Russia's Mars 96 ended in the Pacific Ocean soon after launch on November 16. "One near-miss, one miss and now it's our turn," said Curtis Cleven, today's launch operations manager for Mars Pathfinder. "We're all a little nervous. At least I am."

Mars Pathfinder contains a lander and a small robotic rover called Sojourner. It is due for launch just after 7 am this morning on a Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral, the timing determined by a flight plan which will take it direct to Mars. If all goes well it will arrive on the planet's surface on July 4 next year, Independence Day.

It will plunge towards the surface at 17,000 mph without tarrying in Mars orbit, open a parachute and then, just before impact, inflate two airbags and fire retro-rockets. When it hits, it will bounce, roll and rumble, the airbags at each corner protecting it from damage. It could take several minutes to come to a halt. The bags will then be deflated and "petals" will open up to support the spacecraft and turn it right side up. It will take pictures, transmit data, and allow the six-wheeled Sojourner to leave down a ramp on to what should be a flattish floor of a dried-up flood plain.

Sojourner, with its battery of test instruments, is designed to last for only about a week, though if the electronics survives the constant hot-cold cycling of the Martian day and night it may go on for longer. At $196 million, Pathfinder is a low-cost mission, far less ambitious than the doomed Mars 96.

هكذا من الاصل

Businessman dissolved body in acid for crime better than an Agatha Christie, court told

Husband 'boasted wife was victim of perfect murder'

By A Staff Reporter

A BUSINESSMAN boasted that his wife's disappearance had been a perfect killing, a court was told yesterday. Russell Causley was alleged to have said it was "better than an Agatha Christie murder".

In 11 years, no trace of his wife Veronica has ever been found. He said she had run away after he moved his young mistress into their Bournemouth family home. In fact, Winchester Crown Court was told, her domineering husband had apparently killed her "with a shot of gas" and her body was dissolved in acid. He denies murder.

Anthony Donne, QC, prosecuting, said that Mr Causley lied to friends about his wife's whereabouts, and got his lover to forge her signature to make it look as if she was still alive.

It was only when Mr Causley, 53, found himself in prison for an insurance fraud that he bragged to another inmate about his undiscovered crime, it is alleged. He was also said to have talked with another prisonor about whether it was possible to be convicted of murder if no body has been found.

Mr Donne told the court: "He was not only ruthless in getting rid of his wife, he was also entirely determined to get his own way. He is a clever, devious and cunning man. Having murdered her, he got rid of her body in such a way that it would never be found."

Mr Donne said that the businessman had married in September 1965, when his bride was 20. His surname then was Packman. They had a baby girl, Samantha, four years later, but the young mother was prevented from having contact with her own family. The first they knew of their grandchild was when the family made an unannounced visit. Her parents saw her just once more, in 1976, when again the family arrived without warning. They last heard from her in the summer of 1985 when, Mr Donne said, she "disappeared off the face of the earth".

The jury heard that the businessman had met his 25-year-old lover, Patricia Causley, when he employed her after he opened an insurance business in Bournemouth in 1984. A few months later she had sold her flat and moved into the family home. After his wife's disappearance, he took his lover's name.

Veronica, then 40, vanished in June 1985 while her husband and their teenage daughter were on a day trip to London. Her wedding ring was discovered on a note in the kitchen saying she could take no more. Upstairs her favourite ballgown was discovered slashed to pieces. But Mr Donne said that very few of her personal effects had gone missing, and she had left her Rolex watch and jewellery. Later it was discovered that no suitcases had been taken.

Mr Donne said: "Samantha remembers going with her father to London to meet Patricia Causley for lunch in the summer of 1985. She does not recall seeing her mother in the house. When they returned, she saw her mother's wedding ring in the kitchen and a note in her handwriting."

Later that month, the court was told, Mr Causley wrote to his solicitor saying he wanted his divorce to proceed on a 50-50 basis, and that he wanted to buy his wife's half of the house. In the letter he said: "She was not amused and walked out soon after". He claimed she had taken £2,000.

He was said to have told friends a number of stories about where his wife had gone, for example that she had gone off with a rich German, or that she had gone missing "with a guy in a red Porsche". He claimed she was in Switzerland, Malta and Germany, and that he had given her £30,000 as a settlement.

Mr Donne said that when one friend asked why he had not sold his house, Mr Causley told them it had something to do with Veronica which would take seven years. Mr Donne told the court: "This is the time that presumption of death is made."

It was in 1990, said Mr Donne, that Mr Causley and his lover began transferring the house into their own names. A woman telephoned a solicitor in Southampton, Hampshire, claiming to be Veronica. Later a woman arrived at the office and pretended to be her. It was really Patricia Causley, said Mr Donne.

in Brixton Prison, Mr Causley allegedly confessed to murder in a conversation with a fellow inmate, who later told a probation officer. Later, Mr Causley was transferred to Ford Open prison, where he told another inmate: "I put her away peacefully with a shot of gas and put a plastic bag over her head. I used acid to get rid of the body." The trial continues.

The wife who vanished: Veronica Packman with her daughter, Samantha, and husband Russell, now on trial

Police seek man after wife is shot dead

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

POLICE were last night looking for the estranged husband of a woman shot dead at a house where a children's birthday party was being held. Thomas McGhee, 53, had chased his screaming wife across a street after she fled to a neighbour's house.

Yesterday a white Vauxhall Astra car belonging to Mr McGhee was discovered abandoned six miles from the scene of the attack at Kimberley near Nottingham.

Police said they wanted to trace Mr McGhee, from Hinckley in Leicestershire. "He should not be approached," a police spokesman said. Relatives of his wife, Janet, have been moved to a secret address for their protection.

Mrs McGhee, 47, who has a young daughter, was chased by her husband as she ran from her home shortly before the shooting on Sunday evening. A witness said: "There was a boy's birthday party in the house she ran into. She was terrified and screaming.

"The children must have seen what happened because the gunman shot through the door. He shot her again and she died inside the house."

George Wood, another neighbour, said: "I heard two loud bangs. At first, I thought it was a car backfiring. When I looked out of the window I saw this chap running away down the driveway carrying a shotgun. He sped off in a white car."

Police protest as girls get two years for fatal kicking

By Lin Jenkins

TWO schoolgirls were ordered yesterday to serve two years' detention for kicking to death a girl who came to the aid of her friend in a fight on the way home from a funfair.

Louise Allen was pulled by the hair and kicked in the chest before falling to the ground where she was kicked in the head as a group of about 30 teenagers gathered to watch. She was killed by one of seven kicks to the head, described as being of only moderate force.

The victim's mother, the local MP, and police officers involved in the case reacted angrily to the sentence, claiming it was too short. Both girls were remanded in custody on May 21 this year and will be released after serving a year.

Detective Chief Inspector John Cordner, of Northamptonshire Police, said he would investigate what legal steps could be taken to have the sentence increased. "I am extremely disappointed," he said. "As a deterrent I would have expected more than a two-year sentence."

Ellen Allen, 35, the victim's mother, said: "They should have got at least four or five years."

William Powell, Conservative MP for Corby, said: "This case will have to be looked at by the Attorney-General who will obviously consider very carefully whether to appeal for a stronger sentence."

The two girls, then aged 12 and 13, stood impassively in the dock at Nottingham Crown Court as Mr Justice Hidden told them: "It was wicked violence and it resulted in the totally unnecessary death of that young girl."

Both girls, from Corby, had been involved in one of a number of fights in the town while the funfair was visiting. On the evening of April 29, the 12-year-old started a fight with one of Louise's closest friends. She appeared to be winning and, with about 30 teenagers watching, Louise intervened and tried to pull the aggressor from her friend.

In a statement read to the court one girl told how she heard Louise say "I can't watch this any more," before she went to help. The 13-year-old pulled Louise away by the hair and kicked her in the chest. As she fell to the ground she was again kicked.

The witness added: "You could see she was not moving and it was like she was having an asthma attack. Someone shouted, "What have you done?" The 13-year-old replied: "Don't really care." The 12-year-old went over to Louise shouting at her: "Why did you jump into my fight?" The witness said: "Then she kicked her in the side of her head. The kick was quite hard."

Both girls left the scene. One was arrested later that night and the other the following morning. Both had admitted manslaughter at an earlier hearing.

Dr Clive Bouch, a Home Office pathologist, told the court that although Louise had seven bruises to her head, the largest was the fatal blow. He said the kick was of moderate severity and in most cases such a blow would have caused only minor injury. It was an "unlucky chance" that the injury proved fatal.

Both the girls responsible were said to have been bullied at school and were not aggressive.

Louise Allen: died after trying to help friend

Cot-death charity founder denies theft

By Paul Wilkinson

A YOUNG mother defrauded almost £37,000 from the charity she founded after her child died from cot death syndrome, a court was told yesterday.

Susan Howe set up a "cunning, calculated fraud", using a secret account. Donations paid into the charity's bank account were transferred 71 times to four others in the name of her partner, Kevin Sullivan, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

The thefts came to light when Iris Whittaker, Mrs Howe's administrative assistant, stumbled across a paying-in book and chequebook for the concealed account, Geoffrey Lowe, for the prosecution, said. Mrs Howe told her the "welfare account" had been set up because of a £2,000 donation from *The Sun* to buy headstones and pay for funeral arrangements for bereaved families. It was a separate account because the paper had demanded anonymity, she told her.

Mrs Howe, 43, and Mr Sullivan, 40, from Formby, Merseyside, deny 19 charges of theft totalling £36,872 over 21 months from May 1992. Mrs Howe had founded the Cot Death Society after the death of her son in 1977. Its aims were to provide babies with breathing monitors and families of cot death victims with advice and counselling. She met Mr Sullivan in 1988 when he started as a fundraiser. Eventually he became a trustee and they set up home together, from where the society, a registered charity was run.

Mr Lowe said that early in 1994 Ms Whittaker began to suspected that money meant for the society was not going into the current account, although she could not understand how. Then on January 26, 1994, she came across the cheque book and paying-in book for the welfare account.

When Mrs Howe was interviewed by police she claimed that the society owed her money.

The hearing continues.

Prayers for long service award

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

FOR 300 determined worshippers a marathon Church of England service that lasted five hours left them on their knees and probably in the record books.

The Guinness Book of Records is to investigate claims that the service qualifies for an entry as the longest in the Church of England.

The service, in four churches in the London diocese, with the congregation walking three miles in a procession between the churches, comes at a time when vicars are advised that sermons should be no more than 12 minutes and services no longer than an hour. Received wisdom in the Church of England is that most congregations cannot take more than one hour of worship.

The London service, taken by the Right Rev Brian Masters, the Area Bishop of Edmonton, was extended to allow the licensing of the Rev Nicholas Wheeler as priest-in-charge of four separate parishes in Camden, north London.

The Rev Jonathan Kester, the bishop's chaplain, said most worshippers lasted the course. He felt "invigorated" rather than exhausted at the end. "People's attention was kept throughout," he said.

The service, on a Saturday, began at St Michael's, in Camden Town. One hour later Father Wheeler, who as an Anglo-Catholic is on the Church's traditionalist wing, was licensed again, at St Paul's chapel near by. From there the worshippers went to St Pancras Old Church where after more hymns and another licensing, the service entered its final hour at St Mary's Eversholt Street, next door to Euston station.

B&Q Environmental Update

Dr Alan Knight • B&Q's Quality & Environment Controller

Over six years ago, we put into place a planned programme to reduce the environmental impact of every product we sell.

This is our fourth annual update covering all the main areas of environmental activity during the past year and describing our plans for the future.

Timber & Forests

In 1991 we set two targets:

By the end of 1993: to have identified all the sources of our timber products down to forest level – achieved for over 98% (by volume).

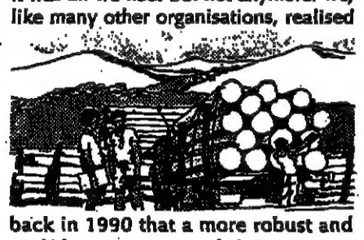
By the end of 1995: all our timber products to come from well managed forests – only 1.5% of timber by volume failed.

Collecting and evaluating the data has been an intensive exercise involving one person working full time for over four years.

Independent Forest Certification – the best way forward

How can we be sure that timber is from well managed forests?

Until now evaluation of timber sources was dependent on '*internal scrutiny*' – desk top studies and occasional visits to forests. The weaknesses are obvious, but it was all we had. But not anymore: we, like many other organisations, realised



back in 1990 that a more robust and credible system was needed. Forests must be independently certified. By working together B&Q and many other companies and environmental groups created The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

FSC

©1996 Forest Stewardship Council a.c. 1996/004

The role of the FSC is to set the principles of good forest management and ensure that certification across the world operates to the same standard. We believe it currently represents the only credible system capable of operating globally.

Customers are just beginning to see the FSC trademark on timber products in our stores and as these become more widely available we hope marketing campaigns from other retailers (including competitors) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will help customers recognise and buy these products in favour of non-certified products.

Products available at B&Q which have already been independently certified:

PRODUCT	SUPPLIER	COUNTRY
Exterior Doors	Chindwell	Malaysia
Charcoal	Chartan Aldred, Recella	South Africa
Interior Doors	Premium Timber	Poland
Edge Laminated Pine Boards	Premium Timber	Poland
Cabinet Doors	Premium Timber	Poland
Wooden Door Furniture	Douglas Kane	Poland
Parquet Flooring	Western Cork	Zimbabwe

Certification initiatives are also underway in other countries such as Ivory Coast, Ghana, Sri Lanka, UK and Sweden.

Some producers have genuine forest management problems and real practical problems to overcome. Others are simply reluctant to support the concept of certification. We shall continue to explain to them why we believe it is important but if they are not convinced we will have to buy from elsewhere.

Target – By the end of 1999 the only wood we buy will be from independently certified forests.

Paint

One in three pots of paint sold in the UK for domestic use is bought from a B&Q store. We believe that between 0.6% and 2% of all solvent emissions in the UK could be from paint bought at B&Q.

The figure is large enough for B&Q alone to make an impact on the overall reduction of solvents. Solvents contribute to low level smog, climate change and can aggravate asthma. They also have an unpleasant smell. The future can be solvent free and where technically impossible, low solvent paints are the answer.

The first stage is already underway. We are working with our suppliers to ensure there is a clear and precise message on every single can of paint we sell. At the moment, this is not the case.

From a total of 123 products there was the following confusing array of labels:

Claim Type	Claim	No of products
ODOUR	*Low odour*	66
	Low in odour	3
	Lower odour	5
	Lower odour formula	5
	Less odour than conventional gloss paints	2
	Much less odour than ordinary emulsion	2
	Low aromatic solvents reduces odour	2
	No unpleasant odour	2
	TOTAL	87
WATER-BASED	*Waterbased*	40
	Economical waterborne	1
	Waterborne copolymer emulsion	5
	Waterbased acrylic	1
	TOTAL	47
LOW SOLVENT	*Solvent free*	6
	Free from solvents	4
	Solvent free waterbased formula	2
	Low solvent	5
	Low solvent formula	1
	Very little organic solvent	1
	Solvent based, the use of water based alternatives should be considered	1
	TOTAL	20
OZONE	*Ozone friendly*	6
	Contains no fluorocarbons	3
	Contains no CFCs	4
	TOTAL	13
LEAD	*No lead added*	10
	No added lead	1
	Contains no lead	7
	Contains no lead additives	1
	TOTAL	20
PLANTS & ANIMALS	*Harmless to plants*	5
	Harmless to animals	1
	Harmless to plants and animals	1
	Harmless to plants and pets	2
	Plant and animal safe	1
	Harmless to plants when dry	2
	Harmless to plants and pets when dry	1
	TOTAL	13
RECYCLING (packaging)	*25% recycled steel*	12
	Recyclable	13
	TOTAL	25
OTHER	*Environmentally Friendly*	1
	Lower environmental impact in manufacture	2
	Official Sponsor WWF	7
	TOTAL	10

When we finalise our policy at the end of the year we will start phasing out claims such as 'environmentally friendly'. We have also worked with suppliers to agree a standard format for displaying the solvent content of all products.

Proposed Target – End of 1999: to reduce solvent emissions from B&Q paint by 30% (using 1996 figures as baseline).

As part of this process we will start introducing new products with a lower solvent content.

Target – December 1996: to finalise details of policy.

Target – End of June 1997: to have new labelling system in place.

Target – July 1997: to launch customer communication programme.

Charcoal

All our imported lumpwood charcoal is currently certified and next year all our new stock of briquettes and barbecue kits will be certified.

Charcoal production can help our forests in the UK. By working with the Bio Regional Development Group, it has been possible to sell charcoal from coppiced woodlands in the nearest B&Q stores.

Last season local charcoal was on sale in 120 stores.

Target – by summer 1997: to buy locally produced charcoal for virtually all stores.

Target – by the end of 1997: to have 50% of UK sources of charcoal independently certified.

Working Conditions in Developing Countries

Working conditions in developing countries is a difficult and emotional issue. The most publicised example is the abuse of child or bonded labour. However, we believe the issue is more complex than just child labour. We have seen factories where as well as environment controls, health and safety can also be improved.

We have worked with suppliers to introduce basic health and safety measures in coir door mat, rug and brassware factories in India. We visit factories and if required request improvements. The scale and complexity of our supply base makes this a huge initiative.

By the end of 1996 we plan to finalise a method of audit and random follow up visits using local specialists for our entire Indian supply base. This will be used as a trial for similar initiatives across the world.

It will be several years before we are satisfied with the working conditions in our factories. However, we firmly believe working with our suppliers is the only way forward and is preferable to bans or boycotts which result in more hardship for the workers.

PVC

PVC has long been associated, rightly or wrongly, with dioxin contamination during PVC production and waste incineration. Also many PVC products contain phthalates. This chemical has been connected with the decline in fertility rates and the feminisation of some animal species. Some environmental campaigners are trying to persuade businesses to phase out PVC altogether. The industry has responded by focusing on the benefits of PVC and questioning the validity of the scientific theories. The issue facing B&Q is that both points of view have merit.

The science is ambiguous and there is as yet no consensus as to the true extent of the problem or to the solution. We will not take sides – but we want to do what is right for the environment.

We shall be financing a PhD student to work on this issue for three years to focus on reviewing the literature and relating it specifically to the B&Q product range. Chemical analyses will be undertaken as and when necessary. We will act on the research findings as soon as key facts are identified.

What of the other issues?

Supplier Assessment

There are so many issues for B&Q to resolve, we cannot resolve them all alone. We must get all our suppliers involved. Since 1991, it has been company policy for all our 600 suppliers to have an environmental policy, backed up by an action plan. By the middle of 1994, over 95% of our suppliers had a policy – an improvement of 85% since 1991.

Building on that progress in July 1995 B&Q launched a supplier assessment programme called QUEST which included both quality and environmental performance. QUEST, which stands for the QUality, Ethics, Safety & Treatment of products, measures suppliers on ten key quality or environmental principles.

The extensive amount of information which needs to be processed has caused bottlenecks, but despite this we know that QUEST is the correct approach. Any suppliers not meeting a certain grade will not have any new products listed until they have addressed the problem concerned. Continued inaction will result in a company being de-listed. Of our existing suppliers, 30% have been re-assessed and the average grades for the five environmental principles are:-

QUEST 6
Average grade: 3.4
Environmental Policy and Awareness
Suppliers' understanding of the environmental issues associated with their products and their commitment to resolving them is graded by assessing the suppliers' published environmental policy.

QUEST 7
Average grade: 3.2
Environmental Action and Achievements
To ensure that a supplier's environmental achievement does not consist of only writing a good policy, suppliers' achievements are awarded a separate grade for action.

QUEST 8
Average grade: 2.5
International Supply Chains
B&Q believes that the issue of poor working conditions in factories in developing countries are a significant issue for retailers. Therefore suppliers' understanding and commitment to this issue is awarded a separate grade.

QUEST 9
Average grade: 3.9
Packaging and Environmental Claims
The suppliers' ability to meet all the possible future legal requirements to minimise the amount of packaging used and design for recycling is jointly assessed with the accuracy and benefits or problems caused by any environmental claims on a product.

QUEST 10
Average grade: 3.5
Timber
The suppliers' ability to meet B&Q's present and future requirements of its timber policy and targets.

This is based on valuing Grade A = 5, Grade B = 4, Grade C = 3, Grade D = 2, Grade E = 1 and 592 suppliers as of 18/11/96.

B&Q Store Performance – Waste Management & Local Agenda 21

We have the potential to make vast improvements in our own performance in terms of reducing our waste, recycling unused materials and working with the local community. This not only helps the environment but also saves us a small fortune!

Our Huddersfield store has formed a partnership with Kirklees Metropolitan Council addressing waste and energy management, staff awareness, customer communication plus community projects.

The store's waste minimisation initiative has involved donations of waste items to local schools and the staff together with Kirklees Metropolitan Council have cleaned up the stretch of the River Colne adjacent to the store.

The intention is to use this example as a case study to encourage other stores to become involved with their local authority's Local Agenda 21 programme. Agenda 21 is a global environmental action plan signed by the Government at the Earth Summit in 1992. All local councils are responsible for delivering improvements such as waste minimisation, energy efficiency and environmental enhancement.

QUEST for stores

In October we started to trial a new procedure for assessing the environmental performance of stores. This is based on QUEST for suppliers. There are 10 principles on which stores are graded.

1	Staff Awareness
2	Waste Legislation
3	Zero Waste
4	Litter Control
5	Customer Recycling Facilities
6	Energy Management
7	Customer Communication
8	Environmental and Community Interaction
9	Environmental Awareness of the Management Team
10	Enthusiasm of the Environmental Officer and Support from the Management Team

Forty stores are taking part in the pilot but it is intended to be available for all our stores by the middle of next year.

The more problems we solve, the more we find to solve

This is a summary of our actions. The complexity of the issues is immense and we know there is more we can do.

If you would like more detailed information, please fill in the coupon by ticking the relevant boxes and send it with a stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm x 22cm) to: Dr. Alan Knight, B&Q plc, 1 Hampshire Corporate Park, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 3YX.

☐ How Green Is My Front Door?
(120 page environment review)
July 95, 75p SAE

☐ Timber Update
(poster)
February 96, 25p SAE

TI

Information on B&Q's environmental programme can also be found on our site on the internet. The address is http://www.diy.co.uk

B&Q

Reporting on our impact on the environment.

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Former Smith lets court know why he's miserable now

By Richard Duce

SONGWRITER Stephen Morrissey treated the less well-known members of the pop band The Smiths as "mere session musicians as readily replaceable as the parts of a lawnmower", the High Court was told yesterday.

While he and Johnny Marr, lead guitarist, each took 40 per cent of the profits, Mike Joyce, the drummer, and Andy Rourke, the bass player, got 10 per cent. Joyce, 33, has launched a legal action claiming that his share of past profits could amount to as much as £1 million which he believes he is owed by Morrissey and Marr. He is also claiming a 25 per cent stake in royalties from any future sales instead of the 10 per cent he has been offered.

The Smiths were one of the most influential bands of the 1980s, reknowned for Morrissey's doom-laden lyrics and mournful Mancunian delivery. Their hit singles included *Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now* and *Girlfriend in a Coma*.

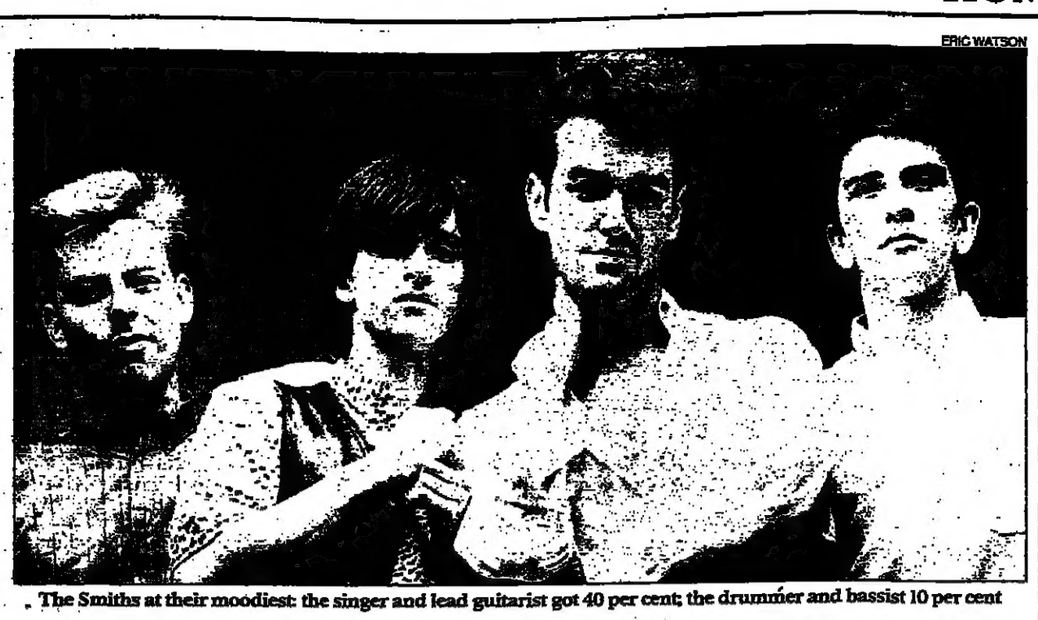
Nigel Davis, QC, for Joyce, said it was not until after the bestselling band split up in 1987 that his client discovered he was getting only 10 per cent of the profits. "It may be that some will say this claim is a cynical piece of opportunism prompted by the dissolution of the group. We submit that's not fair. Mr Joyce's case is that it was only when the group dissolved he went to see his accountant and was told that he'd been getting only 10 per cent," Mr Davis said.

Rourke, who will be giving evidence in the four-day hearing, settled with Morrissey and Marr in the late 80s for £80,000 and 10 per cent of future royalties. Mr Davis told how the band was formed in Manchester in 1982 and broke up after "achieving very considerable" success. "They released a number of highly successful albums and highly successful singles. Their CDs continue to sell."

He said that Morrissey, who wrote the lyrics for the songs, and Marr, who wrote the music, were "clearly entitled" to the royalties from the group's songs and there was no dispute over that. But royalties for the recordings and profits from concerts by the group were paid to a company called Smithdom Limited and Mr Joyce is claiming that as a partner he was entitled to a quarter share. "Now that it is admitted there was a partnership agreement between the four members of the band, the presumption is one of equality," Mr Davis said. However, both Morrissey and Marr "place emphasis on how much more important they were for the group".

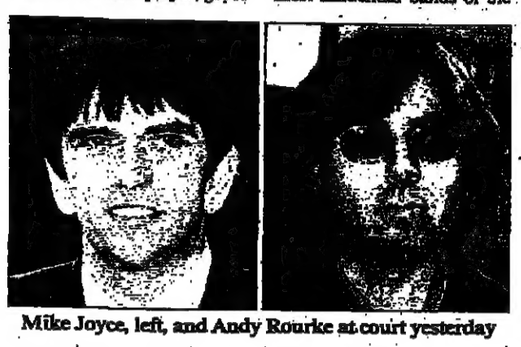
"They had the highest profile so far as the public were concerned but it would seem they'd go further and claim they are much more talented. They seek to play down the importance of Joyce and Rourke. They seem to disparage them, saying they were mere session musicians."

Mr Davis said it was "wrong to rubbish" Rourke and Joyce's contribution. The court was told that after Joyce raised the matter with Morrissey in 1988 they subsequently received £270,000. The Smiths' popularity was based on the eccentric public image of Morrissey, who is now pursuing a solo career.

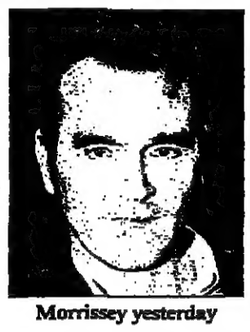


ERIC WATSON

The Smiths at their moodiest: the singer and lead guitarist got 40 per cent; the drummer and bassist 10 per cent



Mike Joyce, left, and Andy Rourke at court yesterday



Morrissey yesterday

Successful gardening at a stroke

By Robin Young

TICKLING the tubers and stroking the strawberries could be the key to success in the garden.

Scientists at Sussex University have shown that plants respond to touch. In most cases, regular stroking or brushing will stunt upward growth and produce more branches, leaves and flowers. Gail Taylor, lecturer in plant biology, is also studying the effects of stimulation on runner beans "to see if stroking them can make them crop more heavily".

The effect is known in the plant world as thigmorphogenesis or thigmotropism. It has been put to use in Japan and Holland, where nurserymen already use mechanical brushing systems to massage small seedlings so that they grow more compact and robust.

What is happening, Dr Taylor said, is that tactile contact, mechanical perturbation, vibration or disturbance alters the polarisation of membranes in the plants' cell walls, opening channels for the flow of calcium, which is important in most plants in controlling growth.

Princess homes in on people with no castle

By Dominic Kennedy and Alan Hamilton

DIANA, Princess of Wales described homeless young people as "Englishmen without a castle" yesterday. She left Kensington Palace, one of her two homes, to launch a Christmas appeal on behalf of runaway children before hosting a ballet performance for 200 guests in St James's Palace.

On a day in which she looked clearly at ease with her new role as a former member of the Royal Family, the Princess palpably enjoyed herself, demonstrating once again that she has lost none of her innate ability to attract the cameras and to bask in their attention.

She spent her morning highlighting the plight of runaways as young as 11 who have turned for help to Centrepoint, the homelessness charity, this year.

"If an Englishman's home is his castle, then what happens to that Englishman when he has no home?" the Princess asked at the charity's annual meeting. "And if that Englishman is young — perhaps midteens, early twenties — what greater risks will confront him?"

Homelessness was not confined to the festive season but was a daily problem for many in our towns and cities, the Princess told the charity's supporters. "Neither are the homeless made up of 20 and 30-year-olds who have had their chance at life and failed miserably. The age of homeless youngsters is coming down. Children as young as 11 called on Centrepoint this year. Some had been running from physical and emotional violence, some from sexual abuse."

She concluded: "As the season of goodwill swings into gear I hope that all of us will be mindful of the Englishman who doesn't have a home to withdraw into."

The Princess made notes during a speech by Victor Adebowale, Centrepoint's new chief executive, and exchanged whispers with him while other guests addressed the invited audience.

Later she met ten homeless people including Jason, 20, who first ran away from home aged 13. After being smacked by his mother, he used to fill bin liners with clothes and disappear for a few days to sleep in a workman's hut in a nature reserve in Winchester. He was taken into care, fell into debt to drug dealers and fled from them to London where he slept rough until being guided towards Centrepoint.

Later, for the first time since her divorce in August, the Princess hosted a function at St James's Palace, headquarters of the court of which she was once the leading light and where her former husband still keeps an apartment and his office.

The Princess, who is patron of English National Ballet, led 200 of the company's supporters and their guests in watching leading dancers, including the Hungarian Zoltan Solymosi, perform extracts from *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Alice In Wonderland* and *Unrequited Moments* in the Palace's Picture Gallery. Later the Princess and her guests sat down to dinner in the Palace's Throne and Entree Rooms.

Under the terms of her divorce, the Princess is allowed to use St James's for entertaining with the Queen's permission. By coincidence, the Princess's last visit to English National Ballet was on August 28, the day her decree absolute was issued by the Divorce Registry at Somerset House. As a court official signed the papers, the Princess watched the first day of rehearsals for the autumn ballet season.

St James's Palace is used frequently by the Prince of Wales to host receptions on behalf of his wide portfolio of interests and charities. Even while she was married, the Princess used its state rooms only occasionally on her own behalf. The Palace, however, remains familiar to the Princess; her small private office remains there for the time being until alterations are completed at Kensington Palace, her London home, to allow it to move there as specified in the divorce settlement.

Next week the Princess is scheduled to address an international meeting of leprosy associations in London on Monday, before flying by Concorde later the same day to attend a charity ball in New York.

Diana, Princess of Wales at Centrepoint yesterday

Taking refuge in law

THE origin of the cliché "an Englishman's home [or house] is his castle" is legal, not literary (Philip Howard writes). Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), Lord Chief Justice, who defended the common law against Charles I's royal prerogative, coined the phrase. "A man's house is his castle, *et domus sua cuique tutissimum refugium* [and everyone's home is his safest refuge]." And again: "The house of everyone is to him as his castle and fortress, as well for his defence against injury and violence as for his repose." The Englishman's home is less of a castle than it used to be. Various public authorities have the right of entry under certain conditions. And the Englishman's castle may even be taken over and destroyed, consequent upon a compulsory purchase order.

Forsyth denies misleading MPs on food poisoning outbreak

By Shirley English

LABOUR claims that the Scottish Secretary misled the House of Commons over the delayed release of a list of outlets linked to the food poisoning outbreak in Scotland were denied by Michael Forsyth yesterday.

A total of 282 people have now reported symptoms and 150 cases have been confirmed as being infected with the *E. coli 0157* bacterium linked to contaminated meat supplied by Scotland's Butcher of the Year. Some 25 people are seriously ill, including four children. Five people have died.

Lanarkshire, the worst hit area, had 225 people with symptoms and 105 confirmed cases, a rise of 18 since Sunday. Forth Valley had 55 suspected cases and 43 confirmed. There was one case from Greater Glasgow and one in Lothian.

Mr Forsyth maintained that North Lanarkshire Council — and not the Scottish Office — had decided not to release a list of shops and wholesalers supplied by the butchers, John M. Barr & Son, until five days after the outbreak. He was responding to demands from George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, that he explain why a food hazard warning, issued by the Scottish Office last Wednesday and later leaked, had been marked "confidential".

Mr Robertson said that there was a "stark contrast" between the memo and Mr Forsyth's remarks in Parliament last Thursday that the Scottish Office had no part in suppressing the list.

Mr Forsyth said the word "confidential" had been placed on the memo at the local council's request. He said when he was told on Wednesday that the council was withholding the list he had some "reservations". Later, he was informed the list would be released. "I received a call saying it had been decided locally to release the information. It was right that should be done," he said. "The decision was taken locally. That is what I told the House of Commons. I did not mislead the House of Commons, I stand by what I said."

He said the council originally decided not to disclose information because of concerns about accuracy. Lanarkshire Health Board later admitted that may have resulted in more people being infected.

Mr Forsyth yesterday visited Monklands Hospital in Airdrie, which is treating about half of the 59 hospitalised victims. It has closed its doors to all routine admissions and drafted in 12 extra nurses. It is feared that as many as one in ten of infected patients may develop kidney complications.

Dr Andrew Todd, head of the infectious diseases unit in Lanarkshire, said that the number of new cases was slowing, but more people were becoming seriously ill. "I hope this is the beginning of the end of the first wave of the outbreak," he said.

The funeral of Harry Shaw, 80, the first pensioner to die in the outbreak, took place yesterday at Wishaw Old Parish Church — the venue of a pensioners' lunch on November 17 where he ate contaminated meat.

Parents pay tribute to girls lost to meningitis

By Jeremy Laurance and David Charter



Samantha Milroy, left, and Anne-Marie O'Connor

THE parents of the two students who have died of meningitis at Cardiff University paid tribute to their daughters yesterday as health officials worked to trace the source of the outbreak.

It will take a week or more to analyse swabs taken from the 1,000 students and staff who have been inoculated against the A and C strains of the disease. The C strain is believed to have killed Samantha Milroy and Anne-Marie O'Connor.

Both students were aged 19 and were only children. They were described as popular young women with bright futures. Ms O'Connor, a first-year law student from Acton, west London, died on Thursday. She was a prize-winning public speaker whose ambition was to become a barrister.

In a statement issued last night, her mother said: "She was a high achiever in everything she did. She had lots of friends and made many more at Cardiff. They are all so upset."

Ms Milroy, a first-year pharmacy student from Stockport, Greater Manchester, died on Sunday, 27 hours after contracting the disease. In a statement, her parents said they were proud of their daughter and all she had achieved in her short life. "All we have left are many happy memories of us together. This is our and Samantha's tragedy. There is no point trying to look for any reason in it — there is none."

Last night, security staff kept a close watch on the gates of the 770-student University Hall which university officials insisted was not a quarantine measure but to keep the media at bay. Although more than 1,000 students, staff and guests of the university have been vaccinated against the Group C strain, up to 100 had left the campus at the weekend, before news of the second death. Health officials appealed for them to get in touch so that they could be vaccinated.

Ben Edwards, a 19-year old history student, said: "On Saturday loads and loads of parents were here taking people home. There must have been 100 or more. We have been told not to leave because there is a chance you can spread it about."

Professor Simon Kroll, an expert in molecular infectious diseases at St Mary's Hospital, London, said students were at more than twice the risk of succumbing to the infection compared with the general population and four times more likely to carry the bacteria that cause it.

Three further cases among students at the university have been confirmed. One 20-year-old male student remains critically ill in intensive care, but the two others continue to make good progress, health officials said. A special ward has been opened at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, and 32 students had been admitted yesterday with a variety of flu-like symptoms. Twenty four were kept in overnight for observation. No new cases of meningitis have so far been confirmed.

The health authority in Cardiff defended itself against claims that it was slow to react after it emerged that the two fatal cases were the fifth and sixth to be confirmed this term. Dr Bill Smith, public health director of Bro Taf Health Authority, said: "This was not an issue of incompetence, this was an issue of legitimate uncertainty and waiting for the disease to develop. Symptoms can be relatively mild or develop catastrophically fast. Health and university staff worked round the clock since the second death to inoculate all those at risk."

An opportunity that was missed

SUCH evidence as has been released about the two outbreaks of meningitis in Cardiff suggests that both were of the same, less common meningococcal group C. Whether or not the outbreak in late October was of the same strain as that causing the present infection is perhaps immaterial: if all the students had been vaccinated at that time, the second outbreak would have been unlikely.

Vaccination is available against groups C and A but not against the more common group B. A hall of residence falls within the definition of a closed community and as such it would have been reasonable to treat prophylactically all those people in it.

The immediate reaction of some students has been to go home, so as to put as many miles as possible between themselves and the source of the infection. Although understandable, this is very unwise.

The issue of the appropriate antibiotics to all those students in residence, and presumably the staff and regular visitors, should have eliminated any meningococci lurking in the throats of the carrier, or carriers. The vaccination that has been carried out provides a very reasonable level of protection if by any chance the carrier escapes their dose of antibiotics, or in the unlikely event that the carrier had been reinfected by an outside contact. The advantage of the students being in residence is that the local health authorities are prepared for any emergency and have all the facilities available to deal with anyone who shows any suspicious signs, however slight.

In the treatment of meningococcal septicaemia, success is partly dependent on speed of diagnosis. Immediate use of antibiotics has cut the death rate to less than 10 per cent. In acute meningococcal infections, the earlier symptoms are confusing. Patients often think they are starting flu because they have a sore throat, headache and feel generally unwell. Within hours, the patient can be dangerously ill, the headache may well have become associated with vomiting, there may be a dislike of light, irritability, sleepiness and confusion which sometimes progresses to coma alarmingly quickly. Meningococcal septicaemia rapidly causes collapse and cardio-respiratory failure.

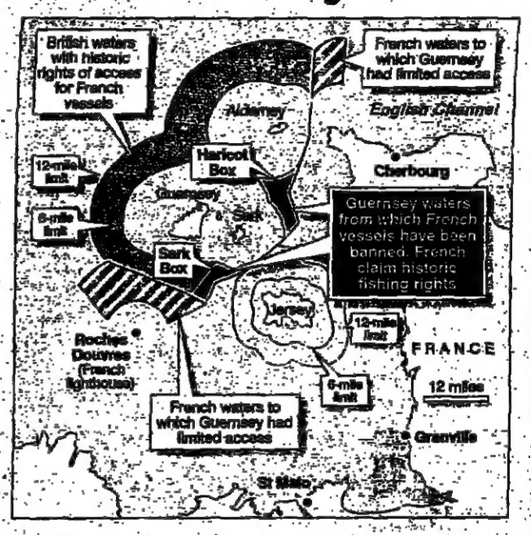
The unsolved riddle of meningococcal infections is why one in ten of the population may be carriers of the bacteria. Some surveys show the figure can be one in four among young adults but only from time to time does an outbreak occur.

Whether the potentially lethal bacteria have been lurking in the throats of some students since October is a question that will need to be answered.


French fishermen discuss tactics in Granville before setting out for disputed waters off the Channel Islands yesterday

French boats defy fishing ban

By Philip Jeune and Michael Hornsby



TEN French fishing boats defied a British ban yesterday and entered a restricted area of Channel Island waters. Sea fisheries inspectors from Guernsey kept an eye on the boats and took their details but no arrests were made.

The fishermen, from the Normandy port of Granville, were accompanied by a French Navy helicopter and the *Coriandre*, an unarmed French coastguard vessel, which is reported to have been ordered to intervene should any attempts at arrest be made.

No Royal Navy patrol vessels were in the area, the only official British presence being the fisheries inspectors in a chartered launch and a small inflatable. One French trawler was challenged by the launch and withdrew after an exchange of radio messages with the French coastguard vessel.

Rough seas and a shortage of fuel thwarted previous attempts by Breton and Norman fishermen to "invade" the area, known as the Sark Box. They are furious at Britain's decision, taken at Guernsey's request, to end a two-year-old informal agreement that allowed them to fish the Sark Box and another area, the Hariot, which are rich in bream, sole, crab and lobster.

In return, Channel Island fishermen were given limited access to an area of French waters northeast of Alderney and to the north of the Roches Douvres lighthouse. Guernsey fishermen complained that the agreement was abused by the French.

The agreement was suspended at midnight on Saturday but a shortage of diesel because of the strike by French lorry drivers forced the fishermen to postpone their invasion plans on Sunday, and 30-knot winds and rough seas kept them in port yesterday morning.

By mid-day the winds had eased and the boats set sail for the Sark Box to the south of Guernsey, arriving at about 2pm.

Ron Le Moignan, president of the Guernsey Sea Fisheries Committee, promised on Sunday to "fight a guerilla war" with the French. By yesterday the official Guernsey line had moderated and a diplomatic solution was being sought by the Foreign Office with the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

"We have urged the French fishermen to show restraint," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "We are anxious that there should be talks as soon as possible to everyone's mutual agreement. There are absolutely no plans for gunboats at this stage."

The French Government maintains that its fishermen have historic rights to enter the two areas under an agreement dating to 1839. French trawlermen have been in dispute with the Channel Islanders over fishing rights for years.

In 1993 two Guernsey sea fisheries officers were kidnapped by the crew of a French fishing boat they had boarded and taken to the French port of Carteret.

They were immediately returned to Guernsey by the French police but the next day 39 French boats blockaded the entrance to St Peter Port, their crews demanding talks with the Guernsey authorities.

Several French fishermen have been arrested and heavily fined for illegally fishing in Channel Island waters, the most recent being Jean Pierre Giroult who was fined £13,000 in Guernsey a fortnight ago. However, fines appear to have done little to deter the fishermen.

'Dirty tricks' claim over peace woman and ex-IRA bomber

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

A SENIOR aide to George Mitchell, the chairman of the Stormont talks, flew into Belfast yesterday to deny allegations that she has developed a relationship with Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber.

Martha Pope, Mr Mitchell's chief-of-staff, said she had consulted her lawyers after a Sunday newspaper alleged that MI5 had monitored her meeting Mr Kelly. Speaking outside the talks centre at the Stormont Castle buildings, Ms Pope, 51, said: "I am just trying to make it clear to anybody who asks that there is no truth whatsoever to the story. It is completely false. I have never met Mr Kelly."

Mr Mitchell described the allegations as scurrilous. The former US Senator said: "The allegations are absolutely and totally false. They are a complete fabrication."

Mr Kelly, a senior member of the Sinn Fein delegation that met the Government during the IRA ceasefire, also said that the allegations were unfounded and that he had never met Ms Pope. Mr Kelly took part in the Provisionals' first mainland bombing campaign in 1973 and led the mass breakout by 38 IRA inmates from the Maze Prison in 1983.


Pope: said she had not even met Kelly

Ms Pope, a former Secretary of the US Senate and also its first woman Sergeant-at-Arms, returned to Belfast after spending the Thanksgiving holiday in America. Mr Mitchell's staff, who all spent the holiday in America, were so disturbed by the allegations on Sunday that they contacted journalists in Belfast from America to deny the claims.

Nationalists claimed yesterday that Ms Pope had been the victim of a dirty tricks campaign. Joe Hendron, the SDLP MP for West Belfast, said: "These claims are total garbage. There are dirty tricks going on somewhere, although it is unclear where they started."

It is understood that the Democratic Unionist Party raised the allegations at a meeting last Thursday with John Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary. A security source yesterday played down the allegations, saying: "This has been definitively denied. They would not have done so unless it was worth denying."

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, said last night that Ms Pope and Mr Kelly had been the victims of "British dirty tricks". Mr Adams said: "It is unfortunate that not only has Gerry Kelly again been the focus of British lies but that Martha Pope has been victimised also."

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Council censured over Masonic link with developers

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

FREEMASON councillors have been censured for the first time by the Local Government Ombudsman in a report that discloses extensive links between the organisation and the Conservative Party.

Investigating complaints that Masons made up a majority on a committee that approved three planning applications from fellow Masons, the ombudsman took the rare step of naming three of thirteen councillors for failing to declare an interest.

Since the office of ombudsman was set up in 1975, there have been more than 30 complaints about undue influence by Masons on councils, especially in planning cases. All of them have been rejected but public concern about Freemasonry has led to the publication of nine reports, even though this is not normal practice when a complaint has not been upheld.

The latest complaint concerns planning applications to Castle Point District Council in Essex between 1991 and 1994. The report found that eight members of the planning committee were Freemasons and that the partner of a ninth member was employed by one of the developers. A tenth committee member belonged to the same Conservative association as one of the developers whose home had been used for fundraising functions.

The original application was by a Mason who sold the property concerned, at Canvey Island, to his son, also a Mason. The son later submitted two amended plans for a motel, car park and public house on the 1.2 acre site. His partner in the development was a Tory activist and close friend of another committee member.

"Rightly or wrongly Freemasonry is generally viewed with suspicion among non-masons, not least because of the secrecy attached to 'the Craft'," Jerry White, the Ombudsman, says in his report. "Knowing that a councillor and a planning applicant are Freemasons and members of the same Lodge, members of the public could reasonably think that such a private and exclusive relationship might influence the member when he came to consider the planning application."

The ombudsman felt that the applications would all have been approved, even if the councillors had declared an interest. He ruled therefore that the two residents who complained that the development had spoilt the value of their adjacent properties had suffered no injustice and awarded no compensation.

However, he found that "some [council] members had little or no regard for the code [of conduct] they had undertaken to observe in circumstances which could only fuel suspicion and mistrust of the way in which the council went about its business".

Bill Sharp and Ron Sweeting, councillors who were members of the same Lodge and Chapter as two of the developers, were named for failing to declare an interest and were found guilty of maladministration. Elizabeth Wood, a committee member whose husband was a councillor in the same Lodge as one of the developers for 15 years, was also named and found guilty of maladministration because she did not declare an interest.

Mr Sweeting, 71, said: "He named us just because we are Masons. We are all completely innocent. There is no law against being a Mason and we have done nothing wrong anyway. There is nothing to answer for. Nobody suffered. We influenced nobody. Planning permission was approved by the government inspector."

Commander Michael Higham, chief spokesman for the Freemasons, said that "by now the message ought to have gone out that they ought to declare an interest in this sort of case".

City suspends grant officials

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO senior council officers in Sheffield have been suspended after an investigation into the way millions of pounds were distributed to ethnic minority groups.

An independent inquiry found "shortcomings" in the allocation two years ago of grants by the city's Department of Employment and Economic Development. A source at the council said the shortcomings involved incompetence rather than fraud.

At the time the department had a budget of about £5.5 million to distribute among projects to boost businesses started by Asian and Afro-Caribbean groups in the city.

The inquiry was set up in May last year after an internal investigation in December 1994 found evidence of mistakes in allocating money. The investigators produced a report that was never made public but is said to include suggestions that money was paid without applications actually being lodged or forms signed by the applicants.

It also claimed that money was sometimes paid direct to individuals with no check on whether it reached the intended organisation. It also found that different council departments independently handed over cash to the same groups. In one case money was paid to 31 Yemeni groups to cover different courses that appeared to be held simultaneously with the same tutor.

Terry Hall and Laura Moynahan, the two officials suspended, are senior managers in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Their conduct will be investigated and a decision made on possible disciplinary proceedings.

CHRIS HARRIS

The first of 2½ million volumes is put in place in the basement by Simon Leavey, foreman of the removal team

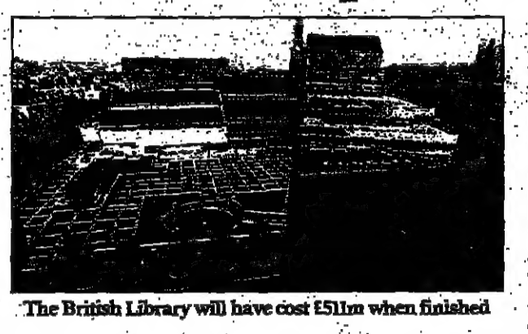
Book opens new chapter for library

By Damian Whitworth

AFTER 11 years of construction, countless delays and a barrage of criticism, the new British Library took delivery of some books yesterday. They were the first of 12 million volumes to be moved over 2½ years. The first reader will not be admitted until this time next year; the library should have opened in 1993.

Among staff there was a distinct sense of relief that the building, at St Pancras in London, was finally being put to good use. The first book to be placed on a shelf deep in the basement was *The Oxford Book of English Traditional Verse*, hastily produced by Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, to replace a rather more obscure offering from the first crate.

Mr Lang was sad to be leaving behind the famous round Reading Room at the British Museum in Bloomsbury, where the likes of Marx, Thackeray and Shaw had worked. But the new library would be a roomier and more comfortable environment for both scholars and books. The reading room was "a Victorian space designed with Victorian technology" and now unsuitable for storing books. "Storing them here increases their lifetime by a factor of four or five."



The British Library will have cost £511m when finished

On hand to welcome the first batch were Harold Pinter and Lady Antonia Fraser. "I'm very excited," the playwright said. "I think it's a great tribute to the endurance of the people who work for the British Library who have put up with all the things that have happened in the past few years. It has hardly been their fault and the criticism has been very unfair." Pinter, who has donated a number of his manuscripts to the library, added: "I won't be coming here to work as I'm a playwright and don't have to research for my work. But I shall come to browse."

His wife, however, had spent hours in the old library. "I have been going there for 43 years, since I left Oxford, and I hope to be one of the first in the new library. I felt quite exhilarated walking across the piazza in the sunshine this morning."

The library should have opened three years ago but delays have meant that the humanities reading room will not open until November next year and the full library until June 1999. The most precious historical artefacts, such as Magna Carta, Lindisfarne Gospels and a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, will be on display to the public from spring 1998.

The new building, designed by Colin St John Wilson, was first discussed 50 years ago. The final bill will be about £511 million. Inspectors found more than 230,000 defects in the construction, including electronic book shelves that ejected books on to the floor, inadequate fire protection systems and a ceiling that had to be rebuilt because it was too low.

Bishop of Argyll may return

Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who is living in the Lake District with Kathleen Macphee, a divorcée, could still be a priest, according to the Most Rev Thomas Winning, the Archbishop of Glasgow. "I wrote to Roddy and told him the door is always open," Cardinal Winning said.

Kray's denial

Charlie Kray pleaded not guilty at Woolwich Crown Court to conspiracy to import cocaine worth £78 million. Mr Kray, 70, from Sanderstead, south London, was remanded in custody with two other men pending trial on April 14.

Hewitt banned

James Hewitt, 38, was banned from driving for a year and fined £450 with £140 costs for drink-driving. The former cavalry officer, who denied the charge, was found to have 97 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. The legal limit is 80 mg.

Attackers jailed

Two German men have been jailed for an attack on three black Britons last June that left Noel Martin, 36, from Birmingham, paralysed from the neck down. A court in Potsdam sentenced the men to eight and five years.

Dustcart ditched

The road collapsed under a 26-tonne dustcart reversing during morning rounds at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, pitching it into a 12ft hole and fracturing a gas main. Houses had to be evacuated. The area is prone to subsidence.

Token offence

The Isle of Wight council, which introduced ecu-style tokens as a charity fund-raising effort, admitted breaching coinage law. The council and Pobjoy Mint were given an absolute discharge by a magistrate at Newport.

All-star B & B

A former astronomy lecturer has opened a star-gazing guesthouse in East Barsham, Norfolk, with glass panels and a telescope in every bedroom. Simon Batty will also offer talks and a computer link with Nasa.

Television in Gaelic is a £31m turn-off

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

IRELAND'S first Gaelic-language television station has flopped, according to initial viewing figures. Fewer than 13,000 people are watching programmes transmitted by the one-month-old Teilifis na Gaeilge. Marketing men have awarded it a "zero" rating.

The highest audience was launch night on October 31 when more than 300,000 people watched the actor Gabriel Byrne speaking Irish. The Hollywood star wrote and acted in an hour-long drama about Ireland in the 1960s.

Ratings have since slumped at the station, which cost £31 million to set up, with only children's programmes remaining popular.

The station, known as TnaG, insists the figures drawn up by Nielsen Market Research in Dublin are unreliable. Padraig O'Ciardha, spokesman for TnaG, said the high quality of the programming was receiving much praise from the public. "We are upset by them because we believe we are reaching a much larger audience than these figures would lead us to believe," Mr O'Ciardha said.

The Nielsen survey examines the viewing habits of 600 people around the Republic but Mr O'Ciardha said there was no way of knowing whether they had the proper facilities to receive TnaG's signal. Only half the population receive it automatically — as cable subscribers.

The other half are equipped with old-style UHF aerials and receive only the Irish channels. They need an aerial extension to receive TnaG. But few have bothered because only 4 per cent of the population is native Irish-speaking.

The poor ratings will provide further ammunition for the many critics who predicted the station would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

The Welsh channel S4C has, by contrast, been a big success. After 14 years on air its most popular Welsh-speaking programmes attract audiences of up to 300,000.

British broadcasters seek crackdown on Irish who tune in free

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE BBC and ITV are calling on the Irish Government to crack down on hundreds of unlicensed television groups that pirate their signals for nothing. British broadcasters are losing millions of pounds a year in potential royalties as their programmes are beamed into rural areas of Ireland.

The typical system works simply and openly. In Co Donegal, masts have been erected along the border with Northern Ireland by "deflector" groups that feed signals to 51 smaller aerials in remote areas. Households pay a voluntary fee of £30 a year for the signal, which they pick up on conventional aerials.

Television fans in Co Cork use a different route, as they are more than 200 miles from Northern Ireland. The South Coast Community Broadcasting Service erected a mast 2,000ft up the Comeragh Mountains in Co Waterford, which picks up British signals from Wales. This is beamed to 23 aerials in Co Cork.

Radio Telefis Eireann, Ireland's state broadcaster, which provides a diet of dreary and stilted programmes across three channels, can only watch with envy as viewers tune in across the Irish Sea. But the pirating of the British signal has proved too much for the BBC, ITV and Channel Four. Stephen Edwards, a London solicitor who collects royalties for the broadcasters, said they wanted the Irish Government to license the groups or to close them down.

"The Irish Government has, from time to time, said it would do something about it," he said. "But it hasn't. This is illegal."

His anger is shared by Irish cable companies that have government licences to provide British television to rural areas. Cable Management Ireland Ltd, which should have been beaming the signals to Co Donegal since 1993, is still battling with local television groups. It charges £105 a year.

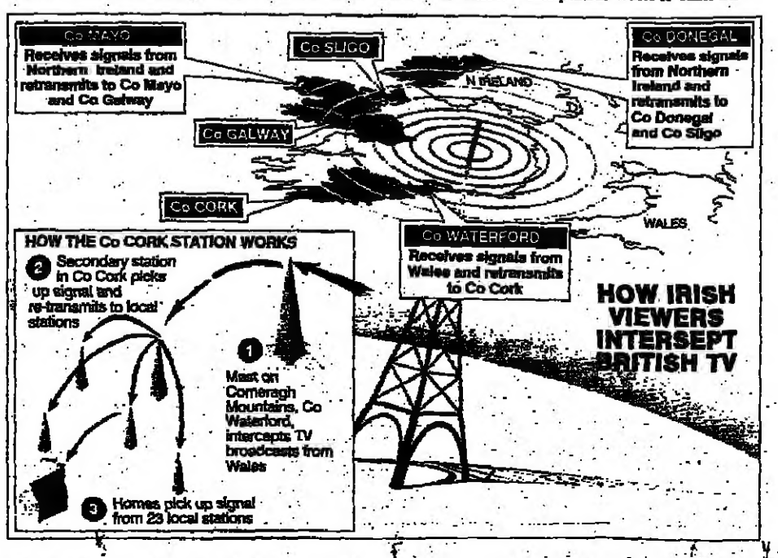
Last week an incendiary device was found near the cable company's TV mast and equipment worth £100,000 was destroyed recently. The Donegal Community Television Support Group strenuously denies involvement.

Ray Doyle, Cable Management's chief executive, said: "The deflector groups portray themselves as a modern-day Robin Hood robbing the rich to help the poor. But they are just helping themselves by stealing the service. I find it difficult to understand how people can get away with this. Investors from abroad are astonished."

Politicians in the Republic tackle the "deflector" groups at their peril. In the last general election, the group in Co Cork put up a candidate who polled more than 2,000 votes, unseating one of the candidates from the governing Fianna Fail.

However, Eric Curtis, the secretary of the Irish National Community Television Association, insisted that the groups were doing nothing illegal and would like to be licensed. They are awaiting a court case that will rule whether the Government was wrong not to consider licensing them.

The Irish Government has appointed consultants from the European Broadcasting Union to examine the issue. Mr Curtis said: "We are not commercial and are strictly run by local communities. We developed the market. Cable companies want to cash in."



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Astronomers see Royal Observatory sell-off knocked out of orbit

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A PLAN to privatise the Royal Observatories has been abandoned for the moment because of financial and legal problems. The decision was welcomed yesterday by Sir Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal, who called on the Government to give up the idea altogether.

An estimated £2 million had been spent on preparing the sell-off. Sir Martin said: "I wish they had never embarked on it and now I think it should be abandoned. That would end the uncertainty and stop the waste of money."

Treasury reluctance to provide money to fund pensions and redundancy obligations for staff moving to the private sector is believed to have been one obstacle. Legal difficulties have also arisen over international treaties involving British telescopes abroad.

Tony Bell, National Officer for the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, forecast that the retreat could mean other laboratories in the public sector being spared from privatisation. He said: "Public sector pensions are paid out of taxation, so there is no actual pension fund. Any company taking over the observatories would have had to establish a fund to meet its pension obligations. The Treasury balked at producing the millions needed."

The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, which runs the Royal Greenwich Observatory — now based in Cambridge — and the Royal Edinburgh Observatory, declined to confirm this account. A spokesman said that the council would not be in a position to start the tendering procedure through which the observatories would have been privatised before March.

The abandonment was announced in a parliamentary answer by the Science Minister Ian Taylor, who said that the council was determined to resolve the difficulties as soon as possible. Given the length of the likely delay "the current tendering exercise has been formally terminated". Dr John Mulvey, of the pressure group Save British Science, said he believed that the bill for legal and other advice would be £2 million: "A lot of effort has been thrown away at the cost of research."

Sir Martin said that he could never understand the logic of privatising the observatories, as their commercial benefits were limited: "Spanish and American lawyers have been beavering away for months trying to sort out agreements covering telescopes in the Canary Islands and in Hawaii. This has wasted a great deal of money and caused a lot of uncertainty, to the detriment of science. There is a case for running observatories in closer co-operation with universities, as in the US."

The observatories and telescopes employ about 300 people and cost about £15 million a year.

THE DENIS MAHON COLLECTION



Paintings from Sir Denis Mahon's collection, which he may leave to Italian galleries: *A Sibyl holding a Scroll* by Guercino, *Saint Jerome* by Domenichino, and *Madonna of the Sparrow* by Guercino

Mahon threatens to send paintings to Italy

Art historian's displeasure deepens

Sir Denis: unhappy at government philosophy

By Damian Whitworth

SIR DENIS MAHON yesterday threatened to leave his fabulous collection of Italian baroque paintings to galleries in their native land if the Government failed to behave "in a civilised way" and meet his strict conditions for their distribution to British museums.

The eminent art history scholar said yesterday that he had already decided to bequeath a minor part of his collection to galleries in Bologna. He said the 61 works worth £25 million that were destined for the National Gallery in London and other institutions could also be sent out of the country if the Government did not stop cutting arts funding. He recently met the Italian Prime Minister and praised his knowledge of art.

As reported in *The Times* yesterday, Sir Denis, 86, is stipulating in his will that the National Art Collections Fund (NACF) must withdraw his works from any gallery that is ever forced to sell any item from its permanent collection. He has also declared that his offer to leave the bulk of his collection to the nation will be withdrawn if the "downward trend" in central government funding of the arts continued. He may also insist that his paintings be withdrawn from museums that introduce admission fees.

He refused to say yesterday exactly what the Government would have to do to ensure his collection passed to the nation. "I will just have to see what Virginia Bottomley [the National Heritage Secretary] has to say for herself," he said. "I want the Government to change its philosophy which is to go on cutting year after year. If they want to tread water that would be all right. But to let it slide like this is monstrous." The works will be on display at the National Gallery in London in an exhibition entitled *Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection*, from next February.

Sir Denis said he had been impressed when he met Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, who is from Bologna where many of the works were painted, on a recent trip to accept an award for promoting Italian art. "I saw him on the day that a minister had resigned, which was rather an awkward moment for him, but he gave me a quarter of an hour of his time. He knew about the exhibition of my collection at the National Gallery. He wants to see this exhibition and I've agreed to show him round. He's a very civilised man."

Asked if his paintings could end up in Italy if the British Government failed to meet his criteria, he said: "We shall have to see if it [the British Government] behaves in a civilised way or not."

Sir Denis's collection includes works by Guercino, Guido Reni and Pietro da Cortona, the most expensive of which cost him £2,000 in 1953. He proposes that they be distributed among the National Gallery in London and seven other museums.

£10m lottery cash offers new life to village halls

By Marcus Binney

PEELING paint, cracked plaster and dodgy loos should be things of the past for Britain's village halls under a £10 million lottery programme.

Recent surveys of the 8,500 halls in England found that more than half were built before 1930 and half no longer met modern standards and needs for lack of funding.

The scheme announced yesterday, named "21st-Century Halls for England", aims to fund up to 200 village hall projects, ranging from major refurbishments and extensions to new buildings. Action with Communities in Rural England (Acre) will administer the scheme, which is funded by the Millennium Commission.

Les Roberts, director of Acre, said: "Each project must demonstrate high-quality design, energy efficiency and access for everyone. Many projects will include information-technology systems."

Architects and historians were quick to point out that the older halls were often the most attractive and sympathetically designed. The architect Roderick Gradidge, a specialist on the Edwardian period, commented: "They used the best architects ... and many leading arts and crafts figures of the day. They did it in the most romantic way. Each hall was related in both design and materials to its village." Many were built as war memorials. Others are converted RAF and Army huts.

A Millennium Commission spokesman said: "Our concern now is that designs should be of high quality. We are determined not to have a repeat of the 1950s, when many community halls of dismal appearance were built."

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Cultural trust plan based on lottery aid

By James Landale

LABOUR plans to set up a "National Trust" to protect and promote Britain's intellectual and cultural heritage with money from the National Lottery.

The scheme, announced yesterday, would give financial help to talented young people working in the arts, sports, sciences, and technologies. After start-up funds from the lottery for up to five years, it would become a self-financing charity.

Money would also come from royalty donations and the ceding of intellectual copyright from established artists, sportsmen and scientists.

The idea is backed by the film producer Sir David Puttnam, who said it was an exciting way to build on the creative ability of Britain's young people. "It should be for the 21st century what the National Trust has been for the 20th."

Labour would ban lawsuits over failed exams, says Blunkett

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

A LABOUR government would change the law to ensure that children who failed their examinations could not sue education authorities responsible for poorly performing schools, David Blunkett said yesterday.

The Shadow Education Secretary said it would be "disastrous" if fear of provoking legal action prevented inspectors from telling the truth about a school's standards.

Mr Blunkett made his comments as insurance companies representing education authorities said that they would fight claims for damages over bad examination results. Two 17-year-olds are claiming compensation for poor GCSE results at schools that have been heavily criticised by Ofsted, the schools inspection agency.

One of the teenagers left school two years ago without any GCSEs and the other got poorer grades than expected. Both are retaking their courses at sixth-form colleges and are suing for loss of earnings and seeking compensation for the cost of tuition.

Mr Blunkett spoke of the dangers of allowing similar claims to proceed. "I can't see how we can go into a situation where there is a threat hanging over legitimate inspection, where revealing that something is wrong is then used in terms of taking legal action and where money is then withdrawn from a school which needs it desperately.

"It would be disastrous if legal advice precluded telling the truth about a school and then taking positive action to improve standards rather then paying compensation."

Yesterday insurance experts said there was little chance of anyone securing big out-of-court settlements like the £30,000 obtained by a man who had claimed damages for being bullied at school. The two latest cases are being prepared by Jack Rabinowicz, the London solicitor who acted for the bullying victim. In that case the insurer, Sun Alliance, decided that it would be cheaper to settle out of court Because the plaintiff was legally aided, the company would have been unable to recover its costs even if it won.

Yesterday Zurich Municipal, which insures most education authorities, said reports that 70 or more former pupils were preparing to sue schools over poor results radically changed the financial calculation. The firm would need to fight and win a test case.

School governors backed Mr Blunkett. Pat Petch, chairman of the National Governors' Council, said: "Unless there is urgent clarification, there is likely to be an ever-lengthening queue of young litigants. Schools will be hit by the cost of escalating insurance premiums if insurance companies decide to settle rather than fight cases."

Libby Purves, page 16

TONY WHITE

Victoria Scott, right, at the protest outside Parliament yesterday

Disabled activists protest at new law

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs Correspondent

DISABLED rights campaigners protested outside Parliament yesterday against new laws that they say are inadequate.

The Disability Discrimination Act, which became law yesterday, makes it an offence to discriminate against disabled people in the workplace or in the provision of services by shops, hairdressers, cinemas and pubs. The protest by 100 people was organised by Rights Now, which believes that Parliament was wrong to exclude firms with fewer than 20 employees.

Among the protesters was Victoria Scott, whose campaign for handicapped people's rights helped to bring down her father as Minister for the Disabled. In 1994 she called on Sir Nicholas Scott to resign after he talked out previous legislation on the disabled. Yesterday she pushed a fellow demonstrator in a wheelchair as campaigners chained themselves to two buses in Whitehall in an attempt to block the highway.

Alistair Burt, Minister for the Disabled, said: "There are some campaigners who are still fighting the battles of yesterday."

Clarke's refusal to shift on Europe is not just defiance

Kenneth Clarke does not seriously believe that a re-elected Conservative Government would take Britain into a single currency in the first wave, or at any time in the next Parliament. Indeed, he expressed doubts last week about whether enough countries would genuinely meet the convergence criteria so that any monetary union is credible and sustainable. However, his determination to keep open the option of participation is not just a quixotic gesture of defiance, though the Chancellor does relish taunting his sceptic critics.

His real concerns are twofold. First, as he said last week and repeated yesterday, it is in Britain's interests to have a stable monetary union, whether we are in or out, because the likely participants are among our biggest export markets. So Britain should remain involved in the negotiations, and, in particular, over which countries qualify for membership.

Second, and more important, Mr Clarke believes that a government decision ruling out membership in the next Parliament would send a negative signal about Britain's broader relations with the European Union, and would be a big victory for the sceptics. It would be seen as a move towards the renegotiation of Britain's membership, which a growing group of Tory sceptics want.

Mr Clarke, and Michael Heseltine, fear the operation of a ratchet after a series of concessions to the sceptics in recent years. After being reluctantly persuaded last spring to agree to a referendum on a single currency, Mr Clarke is now determined to draw a line. Most of the Cabinet believe that he is not bluffing, and might resign if the "wait-and-see" policy is abandoned.

However, there is an ambiguity in the Government's position. Mr Clarke has stuck to the letter of the official statement after the Cabinet decision in April on the referendum that "we will be keeping our option open at the next general election". However, Downing Street was

yesterday saying "we will take decisions when there are decisions there to be taken". That *could* be a crucial let-out since it leaves open the possibility that, if the Government concludes in, say, February or March, that the position is clear over the form of monetary union, it could then decide it would not be right for Britain to enter in the first wave. And, hey presto, a gap would open up with Labour which could be depicted as being willing to "sell out the pound", even though Robin Cook has emphasised Labour's doubts. That, at any rate, is the hope of the sceptics and they believe that John Major is on their side. Not surprisingly, Mr Clarke has been saying that final decisions on the shape of monetary union may not be taken until the European council after the general election.

For at least two years Mr Major has told people that he doubts whether any early monetary union will work and, anyway, does not believe that Britain would join. But he has been constrained by the attitudes of Mr Heseltine and especially Mr Clarke, while, along with Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Clarke, he is worried about undermining Britain's influence in the negotiations.

Little is likely to happen in the short term. The sceptic press is trying to build up pressure on the Cabinet with stories where the wish is father to the news and wholly unscientific surveys of readers' views. But even sceptic Cabinet ministers do not want to force the issue now in view of Mr Clarke's refusal to shift. More likely is an attempt to reopen the question on the eve of the election or in a personal expression of view from Mr Major (the Huntingdon declaration option). Either would risk splitting the Cabinet. For the next five months, at any rate, Mr Clarke remains the most powerful man in the Government.

Peter Riddell

Ministers defeated in Police Bill vote

THE Government suffered its first defeat of this parliamentary session last night over plans to give employers access to job seekers' criminal records (James Landale writes).

Peers backed a move to exempt voluntary workers from having to pay for new criminal conviction certificates. Under the new Police Bill, certain employers will be able to request the certificates from a new Criminal Records Agency before they take on staff, especially those who would be working with children.

Voluntary groups feared that they would have to bear the cost to prevent potential workers being dissuaded from applying. The certificates will cost between £5 and £10.

The amendment to the Bill, put forward by the former Commons Speaker Lord Weatherill, secured a two-vote majority. A spokesman for Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that ministers would consider the implications of the vote before deciding whether to seek to reverse it in the Commons.

Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, for Labour, said: "This will be a great relief to many organisations which use volunteers, many of whom are young or unemployed and would not have been able to afford the fees."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY In the Commons: health questions; questions to the Prime Minister; Budget debate, final day; backbench debate on incapacity benefits. In the Lords: Scottish planning Bills, second readings; National Health Service (Primary Care) Bill, second reading; debate on call to include ban on racial and religious discrimination in revised European Union Treaty.

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'Dishonourable' Russian general faces dismissal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A FURIOUS battle broke out in the Russian military's top ranks yesterday after General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, accused one of his most senior officers of "dishonourable conduct" and demanded his sacking.

In a move which could signal a fresh purge of Russian top brass, General Vladimir Semyonov, the commander of Russia's land forces, was accused of "actions discrediting the honour and dignity of a serviceman and incompatible with his duty". His duties have been taken over by his deputy, General Anatoli Golovnyov.

Since June President Yeltsin has sacked or removed more than 15 top generals from the demoralised armed forces, amid warnings that the army was on the verge of mutiny.

General Semyonov, 56, a former Soviet deputy Defence Minister, has held his position since 1991 and was in charge of ground forces during the assault on Chechnya two years ago, which began one of the most humiliating chapters in Russian military history.

However, the wording of a presidential decree, which has been prepared but not yet signed by the Russian leader, suggested that it was the general's activities out of uniform, rather than his professional conduct, that were being questioned.

Semyonov: 'questions over family business'

The military authorities are under strong pressure to clean up widespread corruption in top ranks of the army, and 100 senior officers are under investigation for abusing their positions. General Semyonov denied any wrongdoing yesterday. "This is completely unexpected," he said. "I have not received any concrete and convincing accusations from the Defence Minister and the reasons for my dismissal are still unclear to me."

Sources in the Ministry of Defence said that the private business interests of members of the general's family had come to the attention of the authorities and may have presented the Kremlin with a pretext to get rid of him. Since the appointment of General Rodionov in July, the white-haired commander has set about removing an entire tier of the top command and replacing the generals with his own appointments.

The Defence Minister wants his men in place when he begins an ambitious programme of reforming the Russian military from the present chaotic, demoralised, conscript force, into a smaller, better-trained and better-equipped professional army.

But the abrupt personnel changes at the top, and the ensuing political rows, have done little to calm the ugly mood within the ranks. Many soldiers go for months without pay because of government incompetence or corruption. Middle-ranking officers in particular have grown increasingly disgruntled.

Although by tradition the Russian armed forces have rarely become directly involved in politics, the political establishment is now littered with former army officers, most prominent among them General Aleksandr Lebed, the nationalist who remains highly popular among the 1.5 million men in uniform.

Yesterday's row was particularly galling for many military men as they marked the 100th anniversary of Field Marshal Georgi Zhukov, who commanded Soviet forces in the Second World War.

GÜNTHER REISP/REUTER

Dressed as Father Christmas, Germany's Finance Minister Theo Waigel joins a Munich party to raise funds for youngsters under the slogan "Europe helps children"

Pope and Carey to reopen dialogue

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, today flies to Rome in a bid to give new impetus to the flagging Anglican dialogue on closer ties with the Roman Catholic Church in the run-up to the millennium.

The talks follow last week's "compact" between the Anglican and Lutheran Churches, and the Pope's overtures last weekend to the Orthodox churches. The Pope said he hoped the millennium would "guide Christians to a full and visible unity".

But a spokesman for the Vatican Council for Christian Unity said that although Anglicans and Catholics had a "shared moral vision", the Anglican ordination of women was "casting an increasingly long shadow" over relations. The fact that Dr Carey himself ordained women had "particular significance".

In an unusual snub, Vatican officials have turned down invitations to attend a service of prayer to be conducted in Rome this evening by Dr Carey. Officials said the service was being held at an Episcopalian Church where a woman priest who converted from Catholicism to Anglicanism was recently ordained.

Dr Carey is to hold two meetings with the Pope during his three-day visit to Rome. Canon Richard Marsh, the Archbishop's Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs, said that issues such as women priests and papal infallibility would be dealt with "within the context of dialogue".

Dr Carey and the Pope will worship together on Thursday at the church from which St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, was dispatched to Britain with 40 monks by Pope Gregory I exactly 1,400 years ago.

☐ Vatican City: Cardinal Jerome Hamer, 80, a prelate chosen by the Pope to enforce discipline among religious orders, died yesterday. *(AP)*

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Two jailed for attack on Briton

Bonn: Two German skinheads who crippled Noel Martin, 38, a black British construction worker, in a racist attack last summer were given eight- and five-year jail sentences (Roger Boyes writes). Anti-foreigner sentiment in eastern Germany has claimed British, Italian, French and Vietnamese victims.

Mr Martin was paralysed from the neck down when the two youths threw a 44lb stone through the back window of his car, which then hit a tree.

Leader defeated

Kishinev: Petru Lucinschi, Moldova's top Communist official in Soviet times and the Speaker in parliament, was declared victorious over President Snegur in a run-off election. *(AP)*

Informers jailed

Ankara: Two army sergeants were jailed for giving military information and equipment to Kurdish guerrillas, the Anatolian news agency said. Four former Turkish MPs face similar charges. *(AP)*

Reindeer starve

Moscow: Some 3,000 reindeer have starved to death in the Siberian Arctic and a further 150,000 — up to half the herd — may perish because their pastures are icebound, the news agency Tass said. *(AFP)*

Mir space walk

Moscow: Two Russian cosmonauts left the orbital station Mir to install more solar panels in an effort to stop occasional power failures. John Blaha, a US astronaut, remained inside. *(AP)*

Suicide bid

Bochum, Germany: A German reptile-fancier was very ill after trying to commit suicide by allowing a venomous South African snake to bite him, police said. The snake was being cared for. *(AFP)*

Surgeons remove tumour from Havel's lung

Havel: hard smoking and drinking habits as a dissident have taken their toll

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PRESIDENT HAVEL of the Czech Republic was recovering last night from an operation to remove half of his right lung.

The chain-smoking former dissident had a final pre-operation cigarette with Jan Starsky, the Health Minister, before doctors removed a small malignant tumour from the President. Pavel Pafko, one of the surgeons, suggested that Mr Havel, 60, could be back at home in ten days. This indicated that the doctors had not found any sign of spreading cancer. The President is expected to resume his duties after about six weeks.

"Doctors believe that the illness has been caught in an early stage," Ladislav Spacek, the presidential spokesman, said.

Mr Havel is one of the few senior politicians left in central and eastern Europe who can display a long history of anti-Communist activity. Former communists still dominate in countries like Hungary and Poland — where Lech Walesa, the former President, was yesterday told that he might be prosecuted for removing secret documents while head of state.

A basic qualification for dissidents in the 1970s and 1980s was the capacity to smoke and drink hard while sustaining an argument for many hours. These habits, made worse by enforced manual work and stints in damp prisons, has undermined the health of many of the intellectuals who toppled communism.

Mr Havel has few political powers as President but he retains strong moral authority and an 80 per cent approval rating in a recent opinion poll.

Boutros Ghali: vetoed by the Americans

African states end support for UN leader

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AFRICAN nations have dropped their unanimous support for Boutros Boutros Ghali's bid for a second term as United Nations Secretary-General, throwing the race open to African candidates.

President Paul Biya of Cameroon, the current head of the Organisation of African Unity, has written to other African leaders asking them to nominate Africans. Mr Biya's letter breaks the stalemate that has existed since the United States implemented its veto in the UN Security Council last month to stop Dr Boutros Ghali serving another five-year term.

As precedent dictates that each continent should get two terms as UN chief, the 15-nation Security Council has agreed, at least initially, to consider only Africans for the post.

Diplomats now expect at least five African candidates to come forward: Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian head of UN peacekeeping; Salim Salim, the Tanzanian who runs the OAU; Hamid Algabid of Niger, who is head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; Amara Essy, the Foreign Minister of Ivory Coast, and his Senegalese counterpart, Moustapha Niasse.

Despite pressure for the UN to name its first female head, no African woman appears ready to run.

Graca Machel, the widow of the former Mozambican President and the current partner of South Africa's President Mandela, is mentioned with increasing frequency but is said to be reluctant to seek the post.

A decision on the appointment is required by the end of the year. If no African emerges with sufficient support, the contest will be opened to non-Africans and the attention will focus on candidates from Asia.

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RAF finds little trace of 'refugees'

Britain calls off alert for relief mission to Zaire

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British troops on short notice to leave for Zaire have been stood down after an RAF Canberra reconnaissance aircraft flying over the region found no evidence of the reported 500,000-700,000 "missing" refugees.

The Canberra team, taking high-resolution photographs from 15,000ft over a wide expanse of eastern Zaire, found only one large concentration of refugees, about 150,000 west of Lake Kivu, near the village of Kilambo.

However, the RAF team of photographic interpreters noted that the surrounding area was well-cultivated. "This is agricultural land — not jungle. It is not Ethiopia," one senior defence source said yesterday.

The aerial photographs have provided convincing proof for the Ministry of Defence that there is no longer an urgent need to send a multinational force to search for refugees, previously regarded as "unaccounted for".

Six hundred Marines with 45 Commando Royal Marines will remain on 72 hours' notice to leave for Zaire. But this is the so-called "Spearhead Battalion" which is always on short notice to leave for troublespots.

The rest of the units selected for possible deployment to Zaire, including the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, logistics elements and the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade which would have run the British presence in Zaire, have had their notice to leave increased from 72 hours to five days.

Britain has also made it clear it does not support the idea of air drops of humanitarian aid over eastern Zaire. Canada, the main advocate of this "last resort" proposal, is also understood to be "going off the idea".

The RAF Canberra PR9, which takes 700 photographs per sortie, has been flying over eastern Zaire for more than a week, trying to find the missing refugees. American P3 Orion aircraft and reconnaissance satellites have also been sweeping over the area.

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) team managed to drive across the mountains and reach one of the camps spotted by the Canberra but it was already empty and the refugees had moved on.

The Canberra will remain in the area, based at Entebbe in Uganda, to carry out more flights to try to trace the movement of the 150,000 refugees. Searches have also continued further south to Lake Tanganyika and as far west as Shabunda.

However, one defence source said: "Judging by what the Canberra team discovered, I don't think it's likely that we'll be deploying a lot of troops to the area."

Apart from the large concentration of 150,000 refugees at Kilambo, the RAF team also came across much smaller pockets of refugees, increasing total numbers to about 200,000.

However, the defence sources said it was difficult when analysing the pictures to distinguish between locals and refugees when the photographs showed clusters of people in "market" areas.

The Canberra team of about 40, backed up by three Hercules aircraft, has faced extraordinary difficulties in carrying out its task. Apart from the onset of the rainy season, the Canberra's take-offs from Entebbe have been limited by a migration of thousands of bats in the area, and when they reached eastern Zaire, the RAF crew had to fly through dust caused by the eruption of the Nyamulagira volcano.

There has also been concern over anti-aircraft fire. The American P3s came under fire last week which persuaded the Canberra team to remain flying at 15,000ft and not to drop to 10,000ft.

CROWN COPYRIGHT

Andy Malthouse, a senior aircraftman, studies RAF reconnaissance pictures such as that, right, taken over eastern Zaire, showing the movement of refugees caught up in the conflict afflicting Central Africa

Tutsi rebels seize key town on Congo

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

TUTSI rebels in eastern Zaire, backed by Rwanda, claimed yesterday to have swept into Kisangani, a key town controlling the Congo River and Zaire's most important communications link.

John Kabunga, a commander in the rebel alliance, said rebel soldiers had entered the city, founded a hundred years ago by the British explorer Henry Morton Stanley. He said they had faced stiff resistance from extremist Rwandan Hutu militiamen fighting alongside Zaire's ragtag army for several weeks.

"Our forces are now in control of parts of Kisangani. We went there by bypassing the town of Walekale, which is still giving us problems," Mr Kabunga said.

The fall of the whole of Kisangani looked imminent last night. Its capture would be the latest in a string of victories for the rebels who already control North and South Kivu provinces. They have vowed to march on to Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, to depose the regime of ailing President Mobutu who is convalescing in the south of France after treatment for prostate cancer.

If the rebels manage to hold Kisangani, formerly known as Stanleyville, they will be able to lay siege to Kinshasa. The capital relies for much of its food from the Kivu provinces and on the Congo for contact with the interior of the country.

Mr Kabunga said there was still fighting around Walekale in Masisi, a rich agricultural area 150 miles southeast of Kisangani, but that this area had been bypassed by his commandos, many of whom were trained in Rwanda and are dedicated to annihilating the *interahamwe* — the extremist Hutus responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The loss of Kisangani would not only be a major blow to Zaire's crumbling Government, but a significant embarrassment to the French Government which had been asked last week by President Mobutu to help to recruit mercenaries to secure the city.

Call for car crash envoy to face trial

Paris: The French Government yesterday asked Zaire to lift the diplomatic immunity of its Ambassador to Paris, who was driving a car which struck and killed two boys in the south of France (Ben Macintyre writes).

Ramazani Baya was travelling to see President Mobutu of Zaire in his villa on the Riviera last Wednesday when he struck the boys on a crossing in the town of Menton. Police claim the Ambassador was speeding.

Mr Baya was recalled by his Government, at France's request, last Sunday. The French Foreign Ministry said that the decision on whether to lift his diplomatic immunity rested entirely with Zaire.

Sikhs suspected of train bomb

Delhi: A bomb on a train at the Punjab border killed at least 12 people and injured more than 30 yesterday (Christopher Thomas writes). The attack could mark the resumption of separatist attacks by extremist Sikhs.

The train was travelling from Pune to Jammu in Kashmir. The resumption of violence comes at a time when India was convinced the Sikh separatist movement in Punjab, which was at its height in the late 1980s and early 1990s, had been all but wiped out.

Thai police chief defends killings

Bangkok: General Salang Bunnag, Thailand's deputy chief of police, said he consulted newsmen and camera crews before ordering his men to shoot dead six suspected drug traffickers last week in Suphan Buri province (Andrew Drummond writes).

Critics have charged that the police themselves are involved in drug trafficking and shot the men out of fear of being found out if their case came to court.

'Dead' man at his own funeral

Manila: Isidro Cataria turned up at his own wake at the weekend, startling his wife, parents and mourners, who fled. Confusion arose when the family mistakenly claimed the corpse of a drowned man at a funeral parlour believing it to be Cataria. Now police say that neighbours are demanding that his family return the money they donated for his funeral. *(Reuter)*

US tries to placate Okinawa with floating base plan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE United States and Japan yesterday agreed to reduce America's military presence on Okinawa and to build a floating helicopter base, but ruled out expected cuts in the number of US servicemen on the island.

The agreement, reached at a meeting attended by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, followed a year of negotiations aimed at assuaging Okinawans' anger over the rape of a schoolgirl by US servicemen last year. The agreement was given a mixed reception. "The feelings of the Okinawan people have not been taken into account," said Tetsuya Higa, Mayor of Nago, a city near the proposed floating base.

More than 2,500 people demonstrated in Nago at the weekend. Seven members of the Nago city assembly sent a letter of protest to Major-General Wayne Rollings, the US military commander at Okinawa.

The US military will return about 12,000 acres, or 21 per cent of the land it occupies, and close part or all of 11 military facilities. As agreed in April by President Clinton and Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, Futenma air station, a Marine Corps heliport in a densely populated area, will be returned to Japan. The two sides agreed to replace it with a floating base to be built off Okinawa's east coast and paid for by Japan. The exact location was not divulged because of intense local opposition.

The agreement is intended to reduce aircraft noise and the visibility of the US presence on an island that is home to 75 per cent of all American facilities in Japan. But it does not address the biggest issue for most islanders — the 28,000 US troops, mainly Marines, who are to remain. The rape of the 12-year-old Okinawa girl provoked a storm that forced Tokyo and Washington to look for ways to reduce the burden on the island.

However, as Okinawans noted bitterly, the planned floating base will be connected to land by a pier or causeway, and so do nothing to protect them from soldiers.

America's bases on Okinawa — with their proximity to China and North Korea — have for decades been a key to US military strategy in the Pacific. Japan spends more than $5 billion (£3 billion) a year to support US troops in Japan, covering roughly 70 per cent of the total cost. Japanese officials say the troops are a stabilising factor in an otherwise volatile region.

Tiananmen commander to call on Clinton

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S Minister of National Defence, General Chi Haotian, starts an official visit to the United States tomorrow. Few Americans know, and are not being told, that he commanded the army during the Tiananmen Square killings in June, 1989.

The American official biography of General Chi, compiled by intelligence sources and distributed by the Defence Department for public information, traces his life from his birth in 1929 to a peasant family, through his promotions during the Cultural Revolution and appointment as Chief of the General Staff from 1987-1983, to his present post in 1993.

But the handout neglects his operational control on the night of June 3-4, 1989. According to an American army biographical handbook, General Chi, as Chief of Staff, commanded well over 300,000 troops from 14 army groups and two airborne brigades during the operation in which many hundreds of people in and around Tiananmen Square were killed and many more wounded. These facts are also omitted from his official Chinese biography.

Tiananmen is a sensitive subject with many Americans and his hosts are eager to minimise General Chi's role.

During his visit he will meet President Clinton and other top officials. Two previous planned visits, in 1995 and the spring of this year, were cancelled because of Peking's manoeuvres off Taiwan.

Beirut gambles on being playground of the Middle East as casino reopens

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BEIRUT

SIX years after the militiamen, kidnappers and car bombers went into retirement, the Middle East's most famous casino and glitziest symbol of Lebanon's heyday reopens tonight. It has taken a £30 million facelift to wipe away the damage inflicted by 15 years of civil war.

Despite ongoing battles in southern Lebanon and daily exchanges of bellicose rhetoric between Syria and Israel, officials say serious gamblers are queuing up to try their luck at the resurrected Casino du Liban, where celebrities such as Frank Sinatra and Charles Aznavour entertained high-rolling Arab oil sheikhs and European jet-setters.

"We've seen huge interest from the Gulf Arabs," Nicholas Crabtree, the casino's vice-president, said. "It's just a matter of time before the cruise ships turn up here like they did in [late shipping magnate Aristotle] Onassis's day when we had stars like Brigitte Bardot and Sophia Loren."

Observers insist that paralysis in the Middle East peace talks will not harm business at the casino, a rarity in the Arab world where Islamic law forbids gambling.

"Gambling breaks all social, political and ethnic barriers as everyone unites to beat the house," Mr Crabtree said. He is a Londoner and one of about 20 British on the gaming staff of 54 directed by London Club International which manages the gambling. "During the Gulf War, I was running a casino in Mayfair where we had people from all the major parties to the conflict gambling happily alongside each other."

In the Sixties, the Casino du Liban rivalled Monte Carlo and outshone Las Vegas

The history of the Casino du Liban, which first opened in 1958, tells a similar tale. When civil war erupted in Lebanon in 1975, Muslims and Christians who battled by day crossed the sectarian divide to gamble. Only in 1989 did the roulette wheels grind to a halt — a year before the war ended, when militiamen shelled the complex.

It has taken 18 months to renovate the shrapnel-pocked building. Now there are 60 gaming tables offering roulette, blackjack and stud poker. Professional gamblers, who can afford to lose $20,000 (£12,000) a night, will be invited to three private rooms where a minimum bet is $150.

Lebanese, however, need to declare they earn $12,000 a year, which will bar the vast majority of them from the gambling tables. But the 320 slot machines are open to all.

Mr Crabtree expects profits in the first year to reach $18 million. These will increase next year when a 750-seat restaurant with facilities to stage international shows is completed.

In its glory days, when the casino rivalled Monte Carlo and outshone Las Vegas, Miss Europe was crowned here for five consecutive years. The last phase of the renovation project will include a 150-bed, five-star hotel.

The casino is being promoted as a symbol of Lebanon's phoenix-like revival. But many Lebanese are unconvinced that they will gain from such prestige projects. A third of the three million population live below the poverty line, according to a United Nations study. Last week, while dozens of workers were putting the finishing touches for the casino's inauguration by President Hrawi, hundreds of Lebanese protested in the streets after trade unions called for a strike. The demonstrators were dispersed by riot police.

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Clinton's drift to the Right seals fate of liberalism in America

Reno: the sole liberal voice from first term

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AS PRESIDENT CLINTON turns to the business of selecting his new Cabinet, postponed over Thanksgiving, those who have made a career out of liberal politics are wondering whether it is time to leave Washington. The word has gone out: there is little point in liberals applying for jobs in this Administration.

Warning bells sounded for them when Mr Clinton replaced Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, a liberal Californian, with Erskine Bowles, a conservative from North Carolina. Harold Ickes, a noted New York liberal and one of Mr Clinton's most trusted fixers as Deputy Chief of Staff, is leaving for home now that his chances of a Cabinet role have vanished. Janet Reno, apparently secure as Attorney-General while inquiries into the Clinton finances continue, remains the sole liberal voice from the first term.

More generally, Democrats as well as Republicans are arguing that Clinton's re-election on a strikingly conservative platform, plus the election of a more right-wing Congress, confirms the country's long-predicted shift to the Right. Liberalism of the brand which flavoured the 1960s and 70s is dead.

There is much truth behind the liberals' lament. For years, conservatives have blamed liberal social attitudes for the nation's woes. Robert Bork, the Supreme Court candidate who was rejected after a bitterly contested nomination, in his book *Slouching towards Gomorrah*, accuses liberal attitudes of encouraging "a nation of culturally corrupt citizens who have abandoned ideas of religious faith, respect for law, hard work and family".

What is new is that these voices have been joined by others on the left of the spectrum. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the figurehead of Washington liberalism, attacks many "liberals" in his new book for holding that mental illness and single-parent families were not problems, simply choices of lifestyle.

Even more damaging for left-leaning politicians, the term "liberal" has become associated with unpopular economic policies: high taxes and defence cutbacks used to pay for big government social programmes. The growth of the middle class has made these policies electorally disastrous. The offspring of blue-collar immigrants who made up the bedrock of Democratic support have settled in the suburbs and are worried about job security and school fees. The result is that "liberal" has become a dirty word. Voters prefer to hear a message of hard work and individualism.

Mr Clinton was re-elected partly because he was alert to the rightwards-shift in the political climate, denying fervently that he was a liberal in televised debates before the election. That is not a new incarnation. The images of him avoiding conscription, raising a marijuana joint to his lips, and wearing a beard while at Oxford are deceptive. He has built his political career on a pragmatic courting of the Centre. He has now signed a Republican-backed welfare Bill which undercuts six decades of social welfare provision.

However, there is one prominent exception to the rejection of the 1970s liberal agenda by voters and the Clinton Administration: the race issue. The O.J. Simpson trials and the "Million Man March" of black men in Washington are a reminder of the deep divisions in American society. Many still look to Government and the courts to solve them — witness Texaco's offer of more than $100 million (£60 million) to settle a charge of discrimination.

In his campaign, Mr Clinton preached loudly a message of inclusiveness: "If you believe in the Declaration of Independence, and you turn up for work and do your share, we don't need to know anything else about you — you're part of our America." This was very different from Republican candidate Bob Dole's refrain that hard-working middle-class people should not have to pay for immigrants and the unemployed.

Mr Clinton may be one of the few Democratic Presidents to consider the tag of "liberal" slanderous. But in his message that government is responsible — and capable — of promoting social harmony, he preserves one strand of the 1970s liberal agenda.

Germans confront role of Jews in Nazi war machine

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

VOLKER RÜHE, the German Defence Minister, yesterday opened an exhibition which tackles for the first time the Jewish contribution to the German and Prussian armies — a highly sensitive topic which is likely to fuel an already fierce debate about wartime anti-Semitism.

At the beginning of the exhibition, organised by the Military Historical Research Institute in Potsdam, there is a picture of a shopkeeper, Richard Stern. The date of the photograph is April 1, 1933 and the Jewish merchant is protesting against the boycott of Jewish shops in Cologne; on his chest he wears an Iron Cross, won during the First World War.

This image dominates not only the exhibition, but the whole debate as to how Germany could so readily assimilate Jews — to such an extent that 100,000 fought for them in the First World War — and then in a few decades banish them from society and murder almost the whole community.

Adolf Hitler embodies this paradox. A new book by Dr Brigitte Hamann, *Hitler's Vienna*, shows convincingly that Hitler's hatred for Jews was not hatched during his early years and that it was rather a political device aimed at drumming up a mass movement.

Hitler, according to Dr Hamann's research, had Jewish friends, patrons and customers for his drawings, and admired Jewish actors and composers. There is at least one proven case of him protecting a Jewish friend. His old family doctor, Eduard Bloch, was allowed to carry Aryan identity papers and when he eventually emigrated to the United States, was allowed to sell his house at a proper market price. Other beneficiaries included Maria Almas-Dietrich, twice married to Jewish men, who sold over 270 paintings to Hitler.

Whether Hitler protected top soldiers in the same way is unclear. There were protective networks in each of the German military institutions. The Luftwaffe — and not only Field Marshall Erhard Milch who was protected by Hermann Goering — contained a number of Germans of Jewish descent. In 1940 soldiers with two Jewish grandparents were expelled from the army and the order was repeated in 1942, 1943 and 1944.

But those with only one Jewish grandparent were usually allowed to continue in the army, although generally barred from entering the officer corps. Some — including former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt — slipped through the net, despite their Jewish grandfathers. Herr Schmidt became a lieutenant in the artillery.

Few Germans in wartime were immune from investigation of their ancestry. Even Reinhard Heydrich, the tall, Nordic-looking head of the Reich Security Service, was frequently accused of having a Jewish father.

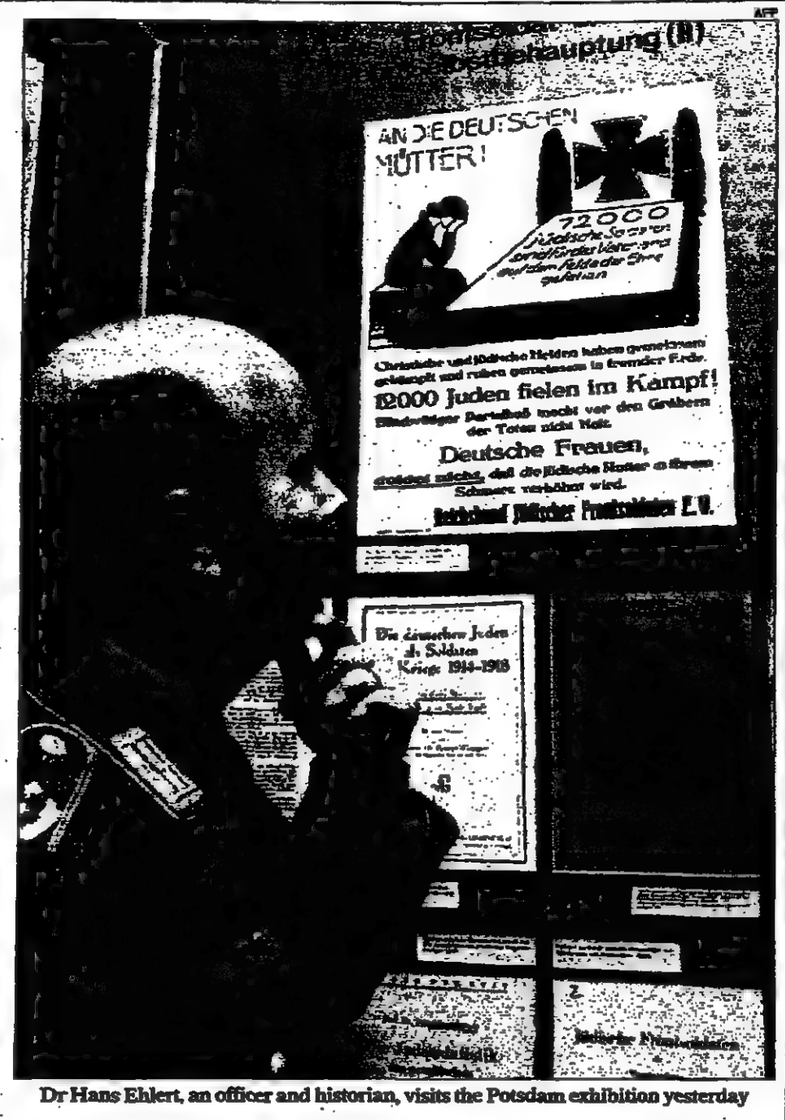
Again and again he brought legal suits against anyone who claimed that he had Jewish blood.

Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, overall head of the Nazi police machine, were aware of the doubts about Heydrich's ancestry but did nothing: he was regarded as too useful and, until his assassination in Prague in 1942, was utterly ruthless towards Jews. Since the Gestapo was the supreme arbiter of Jewish ancestry, exceptions could always be found and biographies faked.

Two debates have been opened in Germany and both have begun to touch on the most sensitive of subjects. The first concerns Hitler: if doubt can be shed on his early anti-Semitism, can doubt also be cast on his personal involvement in the Holocaust? The German historian Joachim Fest (who argues that Hitler was intimately involved in, and gave the direct order for, the elimination of the Jews) is feuding with Hans Mommsen, who claims that the Nazis drifted towards the Holocaust.

The second great debate which has now begun concerns the identity of Jews in Germany. Naval Captain Frank Noegler, the military historian who researched the exhibition on German-Jewish soldiers, claims that German Jews regarded service in the Prussian army as a way towards gaining full civic equality and demanded the right to participate in national military service.

Most Jews who served in the wartime German army did not regard themselves as Jews, but as Germans; some may not have been aware of their Jewish ancestry.



Dr Hans Ehlert, an officer and historian, visits the Potsdam exhibition yesterday

Student unearths service records

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

AN American studying history at Cambridge University has unearthed documentary evidence about German Jews who served in Hitler's army.

Bryan Rigg, 25, has uncovered papers suggesting that thousands of soldiers with one Jewish parent or grandparent fought for the Nazis.

Many of Hitler's highest ranking officers were termed under the Nuremberg Laws as *Mischlinge* — those of mixed race. The German Army personnel office in January 1944 knew of 77 "high-ranking officers of mixed Jewish race or married to a Jew" serving in the Wehrmacht.

Hitler knew of the Jewish origin of many officers — some of them highly decorated — because he signed documents declaring them to be of "German blood". Their futures would be looked at again after the war.

Mr Rigg, a Texan graduate of Yale University, has tracked down through their individual records hundreds of soldiers with some Jewish parentage.

However, some historians dismissed the findings and claimed they presented nothing new. Dr Anthony Glees, of Brunel University, said: "Serious historians have known really ever since the Nuremberg laws were promulgated that there were different categories of 'bastards' or 'mongrels', as the Nazis called them, who were treated differently."

Campaign donor sought change in US policy on Asia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House kept secret until after President Clinton's re-election a letter from an Indonesian billionaire, at the centre of controversy over foreign donations to the Democratic Party, which urged him to alter American policy in the Far East.

In the letter, written in March 1993, months after the President first took office, Mochtar Riady, a Lippo Group executive, called on Mr Clinton to "normalise" relations with Vietnam and ignore human rights violations in China and Indonesia. The existence of the letter, revealed by *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday, undermined at a single stroke efforts by the White House to portray the relationship between the President and the influential Indonesian family as purely social.

It is also likely further to encourage Republicans who have promised to set up congressional hearings over Democratic fundraising after the failure last week of Janet Reno, the Attorney General, to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate the issue. Don Nickles and John McCain, two of the most senior Republican senators, said they disagreed with Ms Reno's conclusion that there was no credible evidence of impropriety by the President, Vice-President Al Gore, or top Administration officials over fundraising.

"We will place more emphasis on congressional hearings which are not always the most non-partisan way of addressing these issues, unfortunately," Mr McCain said.

The senator also questioned Mr Clinton's links with Mr Riady's son James, another big Democratic contributor who discussed Asian trade policy during 20 private visits to the White House in the past four years. The Riadys, who first met the Clintons in Arkansas, emerged shortly before last month's election at the apex of a network of Asian contributors. At best, critics believe they bought political favours but some claim that policy changes have been bought.

The family secured an influential post at the Commerce Department for one of its trusted Lippo lieutenants, John Huang, who later became a senior fundraiser for the Democratic Party. Mr Huang, who was dismissed when Clinton officials saw potential political embarrassment, is at the heart of a House inquiry into Arkansas connections with Indonesia in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Indogate", which increasingly is beginning to appear as the Whitewater of Mr Clinton's second term, is likely to hinge on how much influence was bought by large donations. The Lippo Group conglomerate has been linked to more than $1 million (£595,000) in questionable contributions. The Riadys are also thought to have campaigned for preferential trading in Asia, including China. But the letter from Mochtar Riady appeared last night to provide the first concrete evidence of hard lobbying.

Mr Riady thanked Mr Clinton for his private meeting during the inauguration and then focused on policy. He urged Mr Clinton to increase trade delegations to Asia and to appoint former businessmen as ambassadors to the region.

He also asked the President to remain engaged with China and that Indonesia be given observer status at a summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Tokyo.

In calling for normalisation with Vietnam, a policy Mr Clinton adopted in 1995, Mr Riady told the President that two of his company managers were in Vietnam scouting for investment opportunities.

US villagers reap lottery harvest

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A DUSTBALL Texan cotton village which until last week was "dyin' on its feet" has been transformed by a lottery win into Lootsville, USA.

Forty-three of the 616 citizens of Roby, a township 120 miles west of Forth Worth, learnt that they will share $50 million (£29 million) after their numbers came up in a pooled lottery ticket. Roby has gone from being a no-chance roadside station where even the tumbleweeds would not linger to the place with the most millionaires per capita in the entire United States.

Their *Whisky Galore*-style transformation has created a national sensation. For the first time in two years, some of Roby's hard-pressed townsfolk have been able to straighten their stetsons and dine out. The local First National Bank of Sweetwater has become a scrum of flush-faced investors.

The win could not have been better timed for the many farmers who at the end of November paid $10 apiece to join a one-off lottery co-operative. This year's weather has been the unkindest for more than 30 years, and many locals feared bankruptcy.

Security blueprint seeks accord on fixed troop levels across Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MORE than 50 European nations agreed yesterday to amend a keynote disarmament agreement to take into account the collapse of communism and the end of East-West confrontation.

At the same time, they were warned by Russia of the dangers of Nato going ahead with its proposed expansion. And they voiced almost universal criticism of Belarus, warning Aleksandr Lukashenko, its autocratic President, that he was leading his country into dictatorship.

John Major joined leaders of 54 countries at a summit in Lisbon of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in drawing up a security blueprint for the next century. One of their main proposals is that the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, a keynote arms control agreement signed in the dying days of the Soviet Union, should be changed to take into account the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. In future, the summit agreed, there would not be bloc-to-bloc limits on troop levels, but new national limits for each country fixed within new geographic zones. Detailed talks will begin next month and will probably last 18 months.

Lukashenko: accused of becoming a dictator

Many countries at the summit, including Britain, expressed concern at the rising tension in Serbia. Carl Bildt, the Bosnia peace co-ordinator, yesterday gave a strong warning to President Milosevic of Serbia to drop a threat to crack down on the huge street protests in Belgrade. He said that the political crisis there could damage efforts to bring stability to all of former Yugoslavia. The Foreign Office criticised the annulment of the local election results, and said it was "disturbed" by the Serbian Interior Minister's statement that the Belgrade police had been "more tolerant than required".

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, told the summit that Nato would create new fault lines in Europe if it went ahead with the admission of new Eastern European members. Western leaders said his tough language was expected, and America and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, insisted the alliance posed no threat to anyone.

Both Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, warned Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that Israel should redouble its efforts to reach agreement on its withdrawing troops from Hebron. Mr Netanyahu is attending the summit together with other Mediterranean leaders, as well as government heads from South Korea and Japan which have insisted on being present at the summit.

Tyson scores knockout £45m in earnings

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the boxer who lost his heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield last month, was the highest-earning sportsman in the world last year.

Tyson's earnings for the past 12 months, including prize money and endorsement deals, were estimated at $75 million (£45 million). This put him comfortably ahead of the number two money winner, basketball's Michael Jordan, who earned $52.6 million. Third was the only European in the top 30 sports millionaires, the German racing driver Michael Schumacher, with $33 million.

The top British sportsman on the list was Damon Hill, the world champion Formula One racing driver, in thirty-fourth place with $8.2 million. The estimates, produced by the New York-based financial magazine *Forbes*, showed a preponderance of athletes from the big three American sports — basketball, baseball and American football — and from boxing.

The new heavyweight champion, Holyfield, ranked number six in the *Forbes* list, earning $15.5 million. Holyfield, a devout churchgoer, gives heavily to charity. Both he and Tyson can look forward to even bigger pay days if promoters can organise a rematch.

Sports stars' earnings have rocketed on account of increased competition between television companies to cover sporting events. A boy who grows up in America today with an ability to run fast, jump high or punch hard can nourish dreams of becoming within a few years one of the world's richest men. Sports stars have learnt to groom their public appearances like rock stars. The publicity-hungry Dennis Rodman, a basketball player with the Chicago Bulls, dyes his hair outrageous colours, argues with umpires and dates beautiful women. His reward: a ninth placing with earnings of $12.9 million.

The veteran golfer Arnold Palmer came eighth in the *Forbes* list, earning $15.1 million — only $100,000 of it in prize money. The rest came from his adroit sinking of sponsorship deals. In the same sport, the newcomer Tiger Woods earned an astonishing $8.8 million, although he cannot yet be hailed as a true master of his sport. He owed his earning capacity to an engaging manner and the fact that he is one of the few black golfers on the professional circuit. No women appeared on the top 30 list.

Don't marry an MP – and don't wear trews

Eileen Wright on surviving 50 years in the House. Interview by **Alice Thomson**

Mention secretaries in the House of Commons and most people immediately conjure up images of nubile young girls being seduced by powerful MPs among the stained glass windows and green leather corridors of the Palace.

But anyone who assumes that the House of Commons is nothing more than a dating agency hasn't met Eileen Wright, who last week celebrated her 50th anniversary as a House of Commons secretary.

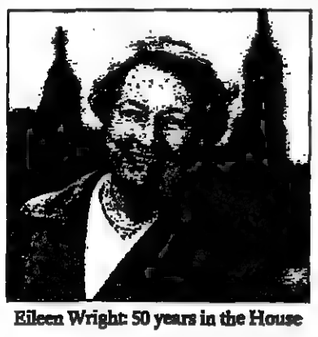
Since entering the House in 1946 she has watched Sir Winston Churchill win back his majority and worked through the Suez crisis and the Profumo scandal. She adored Margaret Thatcher, will probably outlast John Major — and Tony Blair was not even born when she started her job.

As the longest-serving female aide in the Palace, Mrs Wright — 66 and steadfastly single since her divorce 30 years ago — knows more about MPs' peccadilloes than their wives, the Whips' Office and Downing Street put together. Broaching the subject of secretaries with her over a cup of tea in the Westminster Hall cafeteria is no easy feat. Everyone wants a word of advice from her and it took at least 15 minutes to get to our table. As she sat ramrod straight on her chair, her attention turned first to my shorthand (which obviously wasn't up to scratch), and then to my "trews" as she extolled the merits of £1 blouses and skirts from Oxfam.

Finally we got onto sex, or rather, the lack of it. Most secretaries are highly professional and more concerned with current affairs than love affairs, said Mrs Wright. Between them they deal with more than 47,000 letters every day. They cure hangovers, book restaurants, conduct guided tours, act as agony aunts to constituents and understand the adrenalin and addiction of the place. One even accompanies her MP on midday jogs. But they don't have to wash their man's shirts or brush the crumbs off the sheets.

Mrs Wright has dedicated her life to looking after her charges (usually two at a time) and adores it. She did marry, briefly, in Coronation Year but it was a disaster. "I am delighted that I haven't got children. I am sure I look so young because I am not a wife. I never exercise. I have the occasional drink but never smoke and I can choose what I spend my salary on. At the moment it is redecorating my bedroom."

The doyenne of secretaries has lived in the same street in north London with her mother since she was a child, even throughout her marriage. She has never been tempted to take an MP home to bed. "That sort of thing goes on a little, but not nearly as much as you think. As a regular churchgoer, I have never given them any encouragement. I always made sure I look business-like and never wear trews or short skirts," she says.



Eileen Wright: 50 years in the House

She was forced to go to work at 16 when her father died, and was taken on as office junior by a firm of parliamentary agents. MPs would come for dictation and filing. "In those days their salary was £1,000 a year and they had to pay for their typewriters, two homes, postage stamps for the constituency and their secretaries out of their own pockets.

"They were a race apart in their black jackets, waxed moustaches and striped trousers. A lot had just come back from the war. You never assumed they weren't honest and upright although some weren't exactly sober and there were a few bad eggs. I am afraid to say that as the pay has gone up, the respect for MPs has gone down."

It is by chance, she says, that she has almost exclusively worked for Tories. One of her first was Sir William Teeling, MP for Brighton. "He was a terrible bully. When you are 18 you don't say, 'stop being such a silly bugger' but I finally cracked and said I would no longer work for him after the summer recess. The bizarre thing was it worked. He loved being bossed around and we were best friends until his dying day." She has since dismissed one or two other charges, saying she would rather starve in the street than work for a charmless man.

The only woman she has ever worked for is Margaret Thatcher, as a stand-in when she was Opposition Leader. "She was wonderful and very considerate. But generally I don't think women make very good MPs. They find it hard to make their mark," she says.

Her current protégé is Patrick McLoughlin, MP for Derbyshire West. But she also looks after Matthew Parris, the *Times* columnist, who never managed to wean himself off her after he resigned as an MP.

Last week she held a vast party in the Churchill rooms to celebrate her 50 years at Westminster. Everyone, from the postroom workers to the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, turned up, a fitting tribute to the indispensable Mrs Wright, who nevertheless was at pains to point out: "This isn't a retirement party, you know."

PETER NICHOLLS

Julie Sowter is the second recipient of the Rees-Mogg Training Scholarship, which offers single parents the chance to train as childcare assistants

Springing the trap

A pioneering scheme offers single parents the chance of a career. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

To work or not to work? Many women with young children know the dilemma all too well. With spiralling childcare costs, the balance between the merits of working and staying at home can seem rather delicate.

Imagine then, how much more difficult that situation becomes for single mothers, especially those with few or no qualifications. That is why the Rees-Mogg Training Scholarships, a pioneering scheme run by the Westminster Children's Society, is so important.

The scheme was set up by and named after Lady Rees-Mogg, the patron of the charity, who secured a £62,500 gift from an anonymous donor. Her idea was to provide up to two annual scholarships, offering lone parents (both mothers and fathers) living in Westminster the chance to train as childcare assistants. Their children, who must be aged between two and four, are given free places at one of the charity's nine nurseries in the borough. And, crucially, the scholarship does not jeopardise any state benefits the parent receives.

The training leads to a national vocational qualification (NVQ). However, the scheme can be a springboard to greater things. Sarah Green, a 31-year-old single mother from Maida Vale, was one of the first two recipients when the scheme was set up a year ago. She is now studying to be a teacher at Middlesex University.

> 'I am a stronger person. I know I can achieve more'

Julie Sowter, 37, who lives in Pimlico, joined the scheme at the same time as Sarah (it is a mark of the scheme's flexibility that candidates can choose how long they take to complete the course). A divorced mother of two sons, Yasseen, 11, and Adam, 4, Julie dropped out of school at 16. A warm, matronly woman, she admits to feeling very self-conscious about not having any qualifications.

As she had done some childminding, she had been wondering whether to apply to train as a nursery nurse. Two things put her off — she would have to find a permanent nursery place for Adam, and she thought her age would work against her. Then fate stepped in.

"I dropped Adam off at the nursery one morning when I saw a poster about these scholarships," she says. "I asked one of the assistants about it and she said it was tailor-made for me."

Julie applied and was taken on. The spin-offs have been tremendous. Not only is she training for the career she wants, but the scheme has boosted her confidence: "The written work was a worry, because it was so long since I had put pen to paper. But it made me think 'Come on Julie, you are just as good as anybody else.'"

Julie laughs nervously and apologises for taking her time to find the appropriate words to express herself. But it hardly matters. The overwhelming reaction on meeting her is astonishment at how this simple scheme has transformed her life: "I am definitely a stronger person now. I know I can achieve more."

She has a new ambition — to run her own nursery. "There's more to life than being a mom and staying at home. It's nice for a woman to have a career if she wants one. It gives you something else to talk about. It can be good for the kids, too — Yasseen is quite proud of the fact I work."

Julie knows it will take a while to work her way up. However, to anybody watching her in action at the Stepping Stones Nursery, looking after a mixture of Tadpoles (6-18 months) and Ducklings (18 months-2½ years), her dedication is beyond doubt.

The scheme requires that Julie spends two days a week in a nursery, learning about the practical aspects of childcare. Her progress is checked by Rosalind Millam, who came to the Westminster Children's Society in 1992 to set the charity up as an NVQ assessment centre.

Ms Millam is delighted with the progress of Sarah and Julie, and Naomi Muigua, a mother of three who has just been taken on as the third Rees-Mogg scholar, and cannot speak too highly of the scheme.

Candidates refine their social skills, learn how to work as part of a team, and how to prepare for interviews," Ms Millam says. "They learn how to make decisions and manage their time. They are encouraged to take responsibility. It is all about raising self-esteem."

Raising self-esteem is indeed an important part of the training process, according to Lady Rees-Mogg, who says the idea came to her in the middle of the night. "Lone parents are often decried and lumped together, and they can feel enormously isolated. As a result their expectations can be very low. This scheme connects them to the community, and to the real world. It provides highly trained childminders, gets single parents off benefits and gives them back a sense of self-worth. It gives them a choice. It is quite wonderful to see the transformation it has made to people's lives."

The charity has also gone to great lengths to show that its scheme is financially viable. Each scholarship is £12,130. It estimates that a lone parent on income support with one child under five costs the Government £7,000 in benefits.

If a candidate gets a job after training as a nursery assistant, on an average salary of £10,500, he or she no longer claims benefits. The charity estimates that when income tax and National Insurance contributions are taken into account, the Government is £8,500 better off. In other words, the scholarship pays for itself in 18 months.

Lady Rees-Mogg hopes the scheme will be a blueprint for other organisations. "Anybody who runs a nursery could start this sort of training programme. It means raising funds but charities are used to doing that, and it is such a worthwhile cause.

"It would mean better childminders and better assistance in the nursery, which has got to be a good thing. In wider terms, every new childminder releases three women into the workplace. And the idea that all single parents want to live on benefits is a myth. Many don't but are trapped by their circumstances. This sort of scheme gives them a way out."

To this end, the charity has sent leaflets to MPs, unions and childcare organisations with a frustratingly mute response. But Lady Rees-Mogg will continue to beat the drum. Her message is simple: "Look, it *can* be done."

هكذا من الاصل

Valerie Grove on why Griff Rhys Jones abandoned history for the stage and became a Lost Boy

'Others went off and took adult jobs. I'm still mucking around'

D'Arcy Tuck, the twittish upper-class schemer Griff Rhys Jones plays in the revival of Ben Travers's farce *Plunder*, first enters "with a motor-coat and carrying a cap". How apt for Rhys Jones, who so immortalised the swaggering Mr Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*. But then he comes offstage after the rehearsal carrying a bright orange anorak. Goin' roadbuildin'? I ask. He gives a laugh that sounds (Arff Arff) exactly like Basil Brush. Later he puts on this anorak to get into my car and I see it is not a piece of stage wardrobe, but a new coat he is rather proud of, useful for driving his tractor in Suffolk.

Rhys Jones's amiable comic characters have earned him a comfortable life, involving country weekends. "You can't take the bourgeois out of the man," he says, happily. He and his wife Jo, and children Catherine and George, live above a former machine-tool factory in Clerkenwell, which now sells lingerie to men in discreet dove-grey suits; every Friday the whole family hurtles off to Suffolk.

The Rhys Jones comic voice can veer between Estuary (for laddish Smith and Jones sketches) and posh. For D'Arcy Tuck he is posh Woosterish. Having read *Plunder*, a 1928 comedy with the usual period nuances involving class, I conclude that as with all farces, it only works in performance, so you really have to be there — at the Savoy Theatre.

Something funny happened the last time he was due to star at the Savoy, in 1990. It was another Ben Travers play, *Thark*. After an eight-week tour, just before the London opening, the Savoy Theatre burnt down. So *Thark* became one of his great unseen triumphs. He never met Ben Travers, but his friend Craig Brown did. "Travers was 90 and told Craig he would wake up every morning and say 'Not again.' Arff Arff!"

Rhys Jones, veteran of Ayckbourn, Feydeau, *Charley's Aunt* and *An Absolute Turkey*, loves farce. "The actual mechanics of farce are part of its delight. It's a very theatrical experience, very manipulative. Did you see *See How They Run*? Its central conceit is to have eight paratroopers disguised as vicars. And a dog. Utterly brilliant. People who don't like farces," he adds, "are rather hopeless people, don't you think?"

But it can be touch and go. "Sometimes an audience gets on the train, and other times the train chuffs out of the station and by the first interval we realise we've left the audience on the platform. With *Arturo Ui*, we had fantastic audiences in previews and then on the first night I could actually hear the rustlings and shufflings.

> 'People who don't like farces are rather hopeless people'

"And a royal Prince" — Edward it was — "came backstage and said 'You seemed to be enjoying yourselves more than we were'." (More Brush-like Arfs.) "Then his auntie came later, and she greatly enjoyed it."

Behind Rhys Jones's fizzing bonhomie there seems to be no sign of closet melancholia. He lost 21lb last year, entirely without trying; luckily, being on tour meant he could get to the shops. In Newcastle he bought a new blue velvet suit.

"Now I've become an actor," he says, "perhaps I should revert to Griffith. Being called Griff is a bit matey, isn't it? But there was already a distinguished fruity-voiced actor named Griffith Jones." Although brought up in England, Griff was born in Cardiff in 1953, son of a chest consultant. He called his Welsh grandparents Nain and Taid.

From Brentwood School he found himself at Cambridge "with a clutch of other grammar school boys from the M25 circuit" reading history at Emmanuel: "Nice Wren buildings, but a bit dull until Norman St John-Stevas made it more colourful, Arf Arf."

He abandoned history, having discovered that no longer could one be cavalier with facts, as at school, but that one was obliged to write sociologically about the three-field system in Lincolnshire in 1520. Since he was more amused by plays, as president of the Amateur Dramatic Club, he switched to English — in the thick of the structuralism debate over Colin MacCabe. "Charming fellow, and a huge enthusiast for any barmy theory that came along."

ALAN WELLER

"Now that I've become an actor perhaps I should revert to Griffith. Being called Griff is a bit matey, isn't it?"

The BBC discovered him at the Edinburgh Festival, directing a show called *Tag* with Nick Hytner. They made him a radio producer, until John Lloyd brought him into *Not The Nine O'Clock News*. "We've all ended up in the same snakepit," Rhys Jones says, of Footlights contemporaries Clive Anderson and Rory McGrath. "So there seemed no break between university and real life. Others went off and took jobs and led a proper adult life but we've all just gone on like the Lost Boys, continuing to muck around in our mid-forties. And then you meet John Bird and think 'Well you're still mucking around as well, 20 years on. When are you going to get a proper job?'"

As a child he admired Charlie Drake, who was then half of a Fifties slapstick duo called Mick and Montmorency. Male comedy thrives in pairs: and the double act of Rhys Jones and Mel Smith, born in the early Eighties, has never gone away; they can still be heard on Radio 2. Last Saturday there was a very funny sketch about bird songs.

Playing Mr Toad at the National was, he says, the nearest thing to giving his Hamlet. I am surprised that Terry Jones did not ask him to play Toad in his film. Rhys Jones told me how the two met in Groucho's by chance. "Hello Griff!" cried Terry. "I'm making a film of *The Wind in the Willows* and I've just been talking to Alan Bennett who said you were good as Toad. But I can't find anybody to play it, so I think I'm going to do it myself." "I took it with good grace," says Griff.

Like Toad he took to motoring late in life. "I used to despise cars, like everyone who can't drive, and I never bothered because I could not afford a car. But when you first become a television star you walk past a shop window and think 'I could go in and buy that coat. Or that car'. And I had to learn to drive because I had agreed to do a Hertz commercial, to be filmed in Arizona and Paris. They never even asked if I could drive." He got his licence the day before flying to Paris. "So my first ever drive was in this powerful car through the streets of Paris, dressed as a silly American tourist. On the Champs Elysées the lights changed to red, and the camera car scooted across so I followed, and only got halfway, blocking three lanes of traffic. I had to lock all the windows, so many people got out of their cars to attack me."

Apart from the voice-overs he does for Talkback, the production company he runs with Mel Smith, he has become the presenter of the BBC2 programme *The Bookworm* on Sunday afternoons. At last — a books programme that makes dramatic television, using locations: Betjeman's Cornwall, Conan Doyle's Edinburgh, Roddy Doyle's Dublin wastelands. What astonishes him is that the director decides what an interviewee will say.

"So people say things they would not naturally say, in places they would not normally sit — all part of making truthful television, but in fact a cheat. And yet in fiction you try to make something artificial seem real."

Having taken late to motoring he has a penchant for classic cars. "It immediately appealed to me, the aura of tastefulness, elegance and other-worldly romanticism — like the people who own beautiful old wooden boats and wear Breton fishermen's hats." The only thing that worries him about his children's childhood is that it isn't boring enough: "I remember my childhood being full of the most excruciating boredom, punctuated by Hancock and Monty Python."

The twelve dilemmas of Christmas

The festive season brings tricky problems. **Giles Coren** reports

You bought your Christmas cards in Sainsbury's this year. All very well and good. But as you popped the first batch into the postbox you realised that you had sent one of these cheapo efforts to the boss. Will this do? Or should it have been a £4 handmade card-sculpture by Funky Eclectica? Then again, would it do to outcard your employer? This is only the first of the 12 dilemmas of Christmas.

Do you buy a fake tree? Ironic Seventies retro-glam or Nineties naff? Those red or silver ones were once vilified, but isn't it better than all the needle-sweeping, and eventual Twelfth Night drag through the house to the bins, that leaves carpets irredeemably acupunctured? And, anyway, is not a fake more eco-friendly than the annual conifer carnage that is the alternative?

Do you let your children go carol singing? Nothing warms the Christmas cockles like the sight of your children dressed for carolling, in mittens, muffs and pompom hats, except perhaps the sounds of their little voices trilling the high notes of *Ding Dong Merrily On High*. But dare you let them out on to the streets of modern Britain?

Do you buy M&S mince pies? And if you do, do you try to pass them off as your own, by overheating them so that the casing bursts, and then mashing the top with a spoon for that home-baked look?

How much do you give carol singers? Do you reward performance, only paying those who can get into the second verse? Or cuteness, which can be lookist? And how much do three 18-year-old blokes, who mumble the first line of *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* and then hold their hands out, need to make it worth their while?

Do you go to Midnight Mass? It could be the move that makes your yule crunching through the frost to the church, and reuniting with old friends in the candlelight. Then again, you may be too late to get a seat, the hymn-sheet might consist entirely of experimental Post-Modern carols by young Peruvian composers, and you'll get home so late you'll never get up in time to roast the turkey.

Do you put a red ring round all the things in *Radio Times* you want to watch over the festive period? Or is that a bit sad?

Do you admit there is no Father Christmas? Little Geoffrey hears the rumours at school and pops the big question on Christmas Eve. Do you perpetuate the great Nordic myth of the unseen bearded benefactor, thus making Geoffrey one of the mugs who stands up for elves and tooth-fairies well into his teens? Or do you do the responsible thing, and tell him where babies come from at the same time?

Do you pretend you believe in Father Christmas? Mum and Dad seem to get so much pleasure from the pretence, making you leave out mince pies and a carrot for Rudolph, and all that. Do you let them know you know? Or pretend to be asleep when the old man totters in, and then say "Ooh, look what Santa brought" in the morning?

What do you say to non-Christians? How do you avoid that red-faced moment when you say "Merry Christmas", even as you realise that he couldn't care less how lowly the cattleshed was, nor how bleak the midwinter. You try to make amends with "Happy new year," remembering too late that in most cases it isn't that either.

Do you open the presents before or after lunch? Or even on Christmas Eve, like the French? And is it possible to change your family tradition once it is fixed?

Do you give presents in the office? No.

The strong pound is bad for Britain

A hard currency is not a virility symbol, says **Anatole Kaletsky**

In the coming weeks you are likely to hear more and more from Britain's businessmen and economists about the "sterling problem" or even, depending on the excitability of the commentator, about the "sterling crisis". These comments will seem odd, since they will appear on the business pages alongside reports that investors around the world are snapping up sterling assets and that the pound is rising to its highest level for years. Yesterday's news afforded an early example of this juxtaposition: just as sterling hit DM2.60, the closely followed Purchasing Managers' Index warned of a slowdown in manufacturing and a fall in export demand.

To economists there is nothing surprising about the business community's fear of a hard currency: a strong pound makes British goods more expensive for foreigners and imports cheaper for Britons. As a result, British consumers buy more imports, while British manufacturers find it harder to sell abroad. Eventually the trade deficit expands, British companies lay off workers, unemployment rises and interest rates decline, causing the pound to fall. But this process can take years, and meanwhile jobs are lost, businesses bankrupted and factories closed.

In the two decades since the world began to live with floating currencies, this process has become clear to economists and businessmen. In the last few years it has been grasped even by politicians, which is why a weaker currency has been adopted as a policy objective by almost every government in the world. America, Japan, Switzerland, France, Italy, Canada and most recently Germany have taken deliberate steps to weaken their currencies. Devising such a soft-currency policy for Britain ought to be the Treasury's top priority, yet to most people in Britain the idea of deliberately undermining sterling seems unpatriotic and absurd.

The British have learnt to envy the Germans, Swiss and Japanese, whose hard currencies have become symbols of economic virility — and to feel ashamed of their own limp and shrivelled pounds. What Britons do not realise is that these hard currency countries have been trying desperately to make their currencies "soft". Japan and Switzerland are doing this by keeping interest rates at ridiculously low levels (at 0.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent respectively); Germany by merging the mark into the new euro, which despite protestations to the contrary is bound to be a "soft" currency with more in common with the franc and the lira than the mark.

So why do British politicians find it so difficult to say openly that they want the pound to weaken? And, why for that matter, do the Germans bother to deny that they want a soft euro?

There are three possible answers: the economic, the logical and the semantic-metaphorical. Economics shows that a strong currency has benefits as well as costs. It can combat inflation and increase a nation's standard of living relative to its neighbours. But these benefits outweigh the costs only in a period of general inflation (such as the 1970s and early 1980s, when Germany and Japan pursued strong currency policies to excellent effect) or when a nation is at or near full employment (which is why America is the one major country today where the Government quite sensibly wants a strong currency). For Britain, with unemployment still at two million and concentrated among blue-collar workers, there is certainly no economic benefit from a strong pound.

The logical objection to a weak currency policy is that if some currencies are falling, others must be rising. It is impossible for all of them to be weak. What this objection ignores is Keynes's classic distinction between the intentions of economic policy and the outcome. It is certainly true that not all nations cannot have weak currencies at once. But this need not prevent them all pursuing weak currency policies, which would accelerate monetary growth and increase world demand. At a time of global inflation, such policies would be dangerous. When the main economic problems are deflation and mass unemployment, weak currency policies around the world are exactly what is required.

> Deflation means weak currencies are what is required

This leaves the purely semantic objection. Economic policy, like European diplomacy, is all too often dominated by metaphors as a substitute for logic. Among politicians especially, the instinctive, subliminal link between words like strong, hard and good is almost impossible to overcome.

The German Government and the Bundesbank are still in the habit of declaring that "a hard Deutschemark is a good Deutschemark". And even though the German policymakers clearly no longer mean what they say, it somehow seems effete to point out that their slogan is utter nonsense.

People seem to take it for granted that something described as hard or strong must be healthy and virile. Yet all that is strong is not good: sailors avoid strong gales. The word "hard" has even more negative connotations. A hard punch on the nose is more unpleasant than a soft one, and hard drugs should definitely be shunned.

As for the psycho-sexual associations of hardness, try the following thought-experiment when you next hear a central banker boasting about a "hard" currency. Do not allow your mind to be steered towards a phallic symbol; think instead of another biological example of hardness — a malignant tumour. That is how Swiss, Japanese and German exporters have learnt to feel about their hard francs, yen, and marks.

As our children see us

Suing for failure to pass exams will not give pupils a proper education

Libby Purves

What a relief it was, after one of those curious dreams of being young again, to wake up in the morning and find myself 46. It must be very worrying to be a child these days. You must sense that you are generally perceived to be either a pathetic victim or a loose cannon: if a boy, you are expected to turn violent any minute; if a girl, to get pregnant and live off the State.

Yet at the same time you are envied: your insignia of silly caps worn backwards, dishevelment and surly manners are mimicked by supermodels and TV presenters years past puberty. Your toys are pinched by executives. All around you is a sea of self-indulgent adults, every one of whom is struggling to get in touch with the inner child, while barely noticing you, the outer one. On top of all this, every time you open a newspaper in an attempt to understand the adult world you are confronted with still more evidence: the most rapidly growing social group are voluntarily childless couples, newspaper columnists wail wittily about the frightful trouble you cause them, and fertility campaigners emphasise the adult's "right" to have sweet little babies. Bundles of joy: moppets, not great big worrisome children like you.

Leave aside, for the moment, this week's somewhat sweeping announcement from a gang of psychologists that 40 per cent of children suffer mental health problems ("however transient"). That, while perhaps justified as a shock tactic to improve necessary child psychiatry services, will have the side-effect of putting the wind up the large group who spend their first eighteen years convinced they are going mad (I certainly did). Far more sinister even than that, for this notional 12-year-old reading the morning paper, is the latest news from the wonderful world of compensation lawyers. This could be the final straw.

Jack Rabinowicz, the solicitor who made history by getting compensation for a boy whose school failed to stop him being bullied, is now taking on two cases of 17-year-olds suing their old school — an institution panned by the inspectors — for failing to get them the GCSEs they "deserved". Their suit is for the cost of retaking exams and for loss of earnings. For some unaccountable reason Mr Rabinowicz seems to have forgotten to add £30,000 for the trauma, humiliation and mental distress caused by Certificate Deficit Syndrome.

Shock, horror. Teachers' unions talk of madness and of floodgates; inspectors are dismayed at such a use being made of their strictures; schools are warned to take out insurance. If the case succeeds, the Government is said to be prepared to act quickly to prevent a flood of others. Perhaps it should encourage schools to sue parents in return for not supervising homework or enforcing bedtime, and so making children so stroppy that they spoil everybody else's chances (Oh no, silly me! Of course that would never do. The parents would not have the money, whereas the public purse is deemed to be bottomless.)

I have to admit that I agree with the general outrage at this larky new idea of failed ex-pupils suing education authorities. But then I also happen to take the extreme and grumpy view that it is wrong, tasteless and decadent for individuals to sue hospitals and emergency services for trauma and distress or even honest mistakes. Two wrongs do not make a right: impoverishing any non-profitmaking public service simply to assert your own woundedness is not attractive.

In the case of schools, though, the really alarming thing is the message it delivers to this questing 12-year-old reading the morning paper. Far from empowering the child, actions like this reinforce a dreadful passivity. These claimants are asking educational psychologists to test them and prove that they "deserved" good exam results, which should have been duly "delivered". As in production-line bakery, the school should have poured the correct mixture into the waiting vessel, stirred it the regulation number of times, and thus ensured that the cake would rise to a specified height. It must be very disheartening, at 12 years old, to be encouraged to think of yourself as an empty cake-tin.

Besides, what about parents? Parents lay the foundations of your life. Children know this, just as they know that they are programmed to grow away into independence: they make the connection very early. My daughter once rounded on me angrily at four years old when some simple task proved beyond her: "It's your fault, you didn't grow me up properly!" At least as many children are let down by their mothers and fathers as by schools: emotionally, socially, educationally.

Where, I should like to know, were the parents of these two current litigants for five years while their offspring were learning nothing? Easy enough to say that the school reports looked fine and that it is impossible for lay people to understand modern curricula, new maths and so on. But come off it, one of these pupils had *no* passes at all. If, on present standards, a child of normal intelligence can't even get one low-grade GCSE, that is a very, very ignorant child indeed. Any parent bright enough to employ a lawyer should have spotted that degree of rot years ago.

So should the pupil. This, for our baffled child reader, is the really insulting aspect of the story. If a school is failing, some at least of the children, backed by parents, should complain early and loud. It can be done. Just as we all know failed children from good schools, we meet others who have wrested fine results out of chaotic, lax, demoralised ones. I know one teenager now at university who knew perfectly well that her school was weak. She spent great energy on simple things like checking the curriculum for her exam board and finding they were teaching her the wrong one. Another girl bought her own French-to-French dictionary, an essential for high quality A-level work, because the school library had none. At my own convent sixth-form, science was so ludicrously inadequate that three girls in the set staged a revolution, and forced through their demand to share classes at the boys' grammar school down the road. All made it into scientific professions; but not by being cake-tins, waiting to be filled.

Of course adults owe children care; of course not every child can be so aggressively active. But schoolchildren, especially secondary children, are the first judges of schools. This is not nearly enough recognised or respected. I speak as an eavesdropper who has, for ten years now, ferried carloads of children to and from a wide variety of schools in both sectors.

They exchange cogent and pithy comments on their teachers' ability. "He's past his peak, he ought to be running a leisure centre like the Britpop Empire." Then he could read his fitness magazines all day without having to give us copying to do in class time"; "Miss X is a faker. I read two chapters ahead in the history book 'cos I was interested, and asked her about it and she hadn't got that far yet"; "His worksheets have got 1964 in the corner. He hands them out, then listens to the cricket on headphones and says he's stressed." Oh yes, pupils know a dull, doughy teacher when they see one, and an uncommitted lazy one too. When they report these dead batteries to their parents they should not meet resigned shrugs or disbelief: the parents ought to turn off the telly, listen, believe them, gather corroborative evidence, compare notes with other parents, and present their case to the head.

There is a false perception, caused by the predominance among journalists of nervy north London parents, that this already happens. Because there are more parents than teachers to offend in print, and because education commentators themselves are eager-beavers, a legend has grown up that tens of thousands of "good" mothers and fathers work assiduously to support their children's schools and keep them up to scratch.

Teachers tell a different story: even to half-fill a parents' evening or meeting is uphill work. The vast majority of secondary parents in particular are invisible and silent, except when they are moronically aggressive. Perhaps they are scared; perhaps they feel that if they pay taxes it is up to public institutions to mould and equip their children while they watch *Cracker* and plan holidays. They are a disgrace. But there's no money in suing them, is there?

Mixing politics and drink

Daniel Johnson on alcohol, the last taboo in public life

Sir Nicholas Scott may not have salvaged his career by confessing to Jim Naughtie on the *Today* programme yesterday that until two years ago he had been drinking "too heavily", and that he had promised his wife he would cut down. To be sure, the embattled MP for Kensington and Chelsea left his *mea culpa* far too late — he was a Northern Ireland Minister when his drinking got out of control — and in another interview he sought to play down his earlier admission with the implausible gloss: "I didn't have a drink problem." Still, it is refreshing to hear one of the last taboos in public life broken: do not admit to having been drunk, on or off duty, unless forced to do so, and never so much as hint at ever having been an alcoholic.

The rules of the House of Commons actually reinforce this taboo by outlawing any reference to a Member's drinking. During a late-night sitting in 1983, Clare Short accused the then junior Employment Minister Alan Clark of being at the dispatch box "in this condition". Matthew Parris, in his *Great Parliamentary Scandals*, comments: "I was there. He was drunk. But the Deputy Speaker reprimanded Short."

The club-like atmosphere of the Commons enables parties to conceal the presence of alcoholics in their ranks. In the past, lobby journalists, who belong to the club too, have kept quiet unless a politician makes a public exhibition of himself, but competitive pressures for disclosure are growing. Silence may be compassionate: no useful purpose would have been served by publicising the fact that the late Maurice Macmillan, for example, had been "dried out" before he became a minister.

The unmentionability of the demon was memorably highlighted in 1957 when the Labour politicians Richard Crossman and Nye Bevan, with the party's general secretary, Morgan Phillips, successfully sued *The Spectator* for having accused them of being outrageously drunk during a socialist gathering in Venice. Years later Crossman's *Diaries* revealed that Phillips at least had been "dead drunk most of the conference"; all three had perjured themselves rather than admit to the fairly venial sin of being drunk on a jaunt abroad.

The Wilson Governments were the booziest of recent times. It was George Brown, Wilson's deputy in the 1960s, who gave rise to the euphemism "tired and emotional", used by the BBC after Brown appeared rather the worse for drink, on television in 1963 to comment on President Kennedy's assassination. Though by no means an alcoholic, Tony Crosland, Labour's chief post-war theoretician, also drank more than was good for him. That was not held against him, though it may have contributed to his death at 58 while Foreign Secretary; but his public school arrogance was accentuated in his cups, and his preference for wine, not beer, was resented. It is no accident, either, that so much was made of Roy Jenkins's fondness for fine wines when he and other right-wingers broke with Labour to form the SDP: the aim was to identify the new party in Labour voters' minds with the "claret-drinking classes".

Politicians of all parties can in theory now drink anything and everything — but in practice Islington Man drinks mineral water. John Major may endorse warm beer in his speeches, but he takes care not to be seen quaffing it too often. Public sobriety is more of a political imperative today than it was a century ago, when the Nonconformist teetotal vote could swing elections. Why? Televised debates have made drunkenness in the Commons harder to conceal: the late Horace King would not have survived as Speaker today. Drinking habits have also changed. The prewar generation preferred spirits; today's politician, if he drinks at all, is unlikely to ask for hard liquor. Women still drink less, and their growing presence in politics inhibits male habits of conviviality.

Alcohol is now seen as incompatible with the demands of office. But those demands also cause leaders to turn to drink. Harold Wilson's press spokesman, Joe Haines, now says that during his last Government, Wilson could no longer face Prime Minister's Questions without several large drinks, rendering him incapable of serious work for the afternoon.

It is in time of war that statesmen bear the gravest responsibility, and many turn to the bottle to relieve the tension. Churchill's prodigious consumption of alcohol enabled Dr Goebbels to caricature him as a hopeless drunk. In fact, Churchill's performance seems scarcely to have been affected by his drinking, though his example was disastrous for his son Randolph. The heavy drinking of another wartime Prime Minister, Asquith ("Quiffy") may have contributed to his overthrow by Lloyd George, but it was more a symptom than a cause of his inadequacy.

Bismarck thrived on a daily minimum of a bottle of Moët et Chandon champagne. But Pitt the Younger drank himself to an early grave on two or three bottles of port a day. For leaders of his calibre, it is hard to say whether alcohol is a blessing or a curse. But for ordinary mortals, there is little doubt.

Pope hope

GREGORIAN CHANT may be rocking the classical charts, but contemporary tunes come top at the Vatican.

The Pope — who is something of a Motown man — has signed up Dionne Warwick, sequinned singer and mother of soul, to perform at his Christmas party.

She will be joined on stage by Natalie Cole and the Harlem Singers at the event in Pope Paul VI's concert hall, a venue more used to Palestrina than pop. The Pope is expected to take a front-row seat for the concert.

This is not the pontiff's first flirtation with soul music. A wearer of Doc Marten's boots, he is particularly fond of Aretha Franklin, who has attended the Vatican at his request and has sung for him in private.

The excitement is palpable among the Monsignori. "Dionne Warwick is a tremendous singer and a lovely person; she sings religious songs," said one Vatican insider.

The concert takes place just days before Christmas. His Holiness is already excitedly humming such classics as *Walk on By*, *Don't Make me Over* and *Anyone Who Had a Heart* while he potters about the Vatican.


Dionne: sultry

Old and tired

JOHN MAJOR has been stealing Michael Heseltine's best lines. At the Tory women's conference last week he hit the mark with his blue rinse audience when he discussed the Leader of the Opposition's apparent two-facedness. "Which twin is the real Tony?" he asked, to thunderous applause. This was a reference to a series of advertisements from the early 1950s for Toni hair products. Two women sit next to each other beneath the caption "Which twin has the Toni . . . and which has the expensive perm?"

Rewind to last year's Tory conference and we find Michael Heseltine asking his elderly audience: "Which twin is the Tony?" Major may care to remember the case of Bruce Babbitt, who ran for the Democratic nomination for the presidency only to drop out when it was discovered he had been borrowing heavily from the speeches of Neil Kinnock.

Way out

AS THE Baroness James (a.k.a. P.D. James) and the literary power couple Harold Pinter and Lady Antonia Fraser shuffled out of the labyrinthine basement of the new British Library yesterday after supervising the arrival of the first books, one member of the party seemed a little lost. "Now, which is the best way out?" asked the distinguished-looking gentleman, peering at a bewildering number of doors. Fortunately a member of staff leapt over to guide the architect Colin St John Wilson out of his own building.

● *Latest to attack the BBC for biased reporting are the Ulster Unionists. The Ulster Information Office (president, David Trimble; director, David Burnside) has written to the BBC Chairman and the Editor of Radio 4's* Today, *claiming that Sinn Fein receives too much airtime. "It is intolerable," thunders Burnside.*


"I'm using my lottery cheque to find a good lawyer to sue the school"

Inane, in vain

MY COLLEAGUE Matthew Parris has been upbraided by Neil Kinnock, the windy Welshman, former Labour leader and Euro-Commissioner. The contention concerns Kinnock's teenage outburst at Labour's appalling 1992 election rally in Sheffield.

Parris wrote in his book *Read My Lips: A Treasury of the Things Politicians Wish They Hadn't Said* that Kinnock shouted "We're alright! We're alright!" and called it misplaced triumphalism.

Kinnock has written to him: "The words I used were 'Well alright! Well alright!' They are meaningless — in the true sense inane . . . I write only to put the reality on record." It didn't sound like it, but well, all right.

Close shave

AS LORD BROCKET miserably sits out his time in Littlehey prison, Cambridgeshire, where he was injured by an attacker with a razor last week, there is talk of proposals for a film about his predicament.


The Brocket of old

Henry Cole, the Old Etonian who turned Anna Pasternak's saccharine book *Princess in Love* into a movie and who interviewed James Hewitt about his affair with Diana, is said to have approached Brocket for approval. Yesterday, Cole would not discuss the matter, but I understand he has written to Brocket at Littlehey and is awaiting a reply.

P·H·S

ALL AT SEA

Time for Britain to help push out the UN lifeboat

The rusty old liner lost its bearings months ago. In winter seas, it is shipping more and more water. They are playing cards in the engine-room because no orders are coming down from the bridge. Both crew and passengers know that the captain became fatally incapacitated *months* ago. They are waiting for one of his relatives to volunteer for his job, although there is no logical reason for keeping it in a family not noted for outstanding seamanship. The relatives have anyway been dithering, arguing that the ship's doctor must first pronounce the captain dead. Stand by for the Lutine bell.

Thus is the United Nations preparing to enter the 21st century. Fully five months ago, the United States announced that it would veto the bid by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN's 74-year-old Secretary-General, for a second five-year term. It was the right decision, for a host of reasons other than the Secretary-General's advanced age — or even his disastrous mishandling of the UN mission in Bosnia. The UN badly needs a more persuasive voice and more dynamic and flexible management. Mr Boutros Ghali's earlier insistence that he would serve only one term made this the ideal time to break with the damaging convention that re-election is the incumbent's unwritten right.

But even if America had made the wrong decision, Mr Boutros Ghali was politically dead from June onwards. However much this irritates other states, the UN's authority rests on the readiness of its most powerful member to work with and through it. Washington's power to change things is however limited to the veto; resentment would kill the chances of any candidate it backed. The only sensible response for others was to turn the US veto to good use by finding an outstanding successor; but UN politics are fuelled by pique, not sense. Futilely and foolishly determined to "punish" Washington for exercising its right of choice in the matter, every other member of the Security Council, discreditably including Britan, voted for Mr Boutros Ghali in the first round last month.

Worse still, they agreed that if he were to withdraw, Africa must not thereby be deprived of its "right" to a full ten years at the UN helm. With this irresponsible decision to put political correctness before political effectiveness, Washington has so far publicly agreed. The entirely predictable result has been further damaging delay while the utterly disorganised Organisation of African Unity — which Mr Boutros Ghali, whose spiritual home is Paris rather than Africa, had persuaded that the American veto was an insult to the continent — wrestled with its conscience. Yesterday, the OAU finally allowed some names, none of them inspiring, to go forward to the Security Council. The timing is not fortuitous; it has been heavily lobbied by France, which is out to slip one of its francophone African clients into the post; and tomorrow in Ouagadougou, France just happens to be holding a high-profile summit with African leaders.

The curtain should be brought down on this farce before it damages the UN beyond repair. The deadline is a mere fortnight away: the General Assembly, which must endorse the Security Council's nomination, is due to shut up shop for the year on December 17. Britain, a permanent member of the Security Council, insists that it has no preference and is happy to sit the game out hoping that some "viable" African candidate — faint ambition indeed — will be found. This attitude is incompatible with Britain's insistence that it is serious about UN reform. Britain should be exploiting its Commonwealth links to sound out Asian capitals on a step that could be presented as a genuflection to geographical "fairness" but would in practice give the UN the strong management it needs. In the rotation of Buggins' turn, Asia follows Africa; and in Sadako Ogata, the highly respected and experienced Japanese UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Asia has a woman who could give the UN the best leadership it has ever had. It may be too late to launch the lifeboat; the attempt may fail; but it is worth a try. If even Britain cannot take this contest seriously, the UN is in miserable shape indeed.

CUNNINGHAM'S NUMBER

Labour has sensible ideas to improve the Lottery

The National Lottery shouldhave been, and still could be, an unalloyed political success. The ingredients are there: the chance for punters to win money, and the distribution of huge sums to good causes. Within the next few years, there will be few in the country whose life will not have in some way been enhanced by the Lottery. Yet, despite some desperate defensive advertising, the institution lacks the popularity that it would like.

Some people disapprove of gambling: their doubts will never be assuaged. But other forms of disquiet can be addressed, and many of them are deal with in Labour's new report on the future of the lottery, launched yesterday by Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary.

Two structural problems have added to popular anxiety about the lottery: its operator and its regulaion. Camelot is perceived to be making no much money. Every penny that goes into Camelot shareholders' pockets is money that could otherwise have been distributei to good causes. *The willingness of Richard Branson to run* the lottery without taking a profit has not been forgotten: the type of profit incentive for which Camelot bid was never necessary. Labour rightly wants to see an efficient, not-for-profit organisation running the lottery.

Dr Cunningham also recognises the potential conflicts of interest inherent in the role of the regulator. Oflot's Director-General should not both chose the operator and regulate its activities. Nor should he be responsible both for maximising Camelot's profits and representing the consumer interest. These conflicts hate already thrown up enough disquieting behiviour to warrant the removal from office of the current Director-General, Peter Davis. Labour suggests that the roles be seperated.

Another objection to the lottery is that it is a tax on the poor to pay for the playthings of the rich. This charge has contained a grain of truth. With so many playing the Lottery, many more should reap its rewards. A way of achieving this end is Labour's idea of "Community Chests", allowing sums to be distributed locally for locally determined priorities. Another would be to favour those projects with the highest element of volunteering: the commitment of people's time and energy would demonstrate local support.

Then there is the question of what should be done after the turn of the century with the fifth of the money that now goes to the Millennium Commission. The Government's solution of redistributing the money to the other four good causes shows a lack of imagination. Labour has two good proposals. One is to mark children and young people as permanent beneficiaries. The other interesting idea is to fund projects that may slip through the net of the Exchequer but which can eventually be self-financing. *Insulating old people's houses is a "spend to save"* measure that pays off in the long run. Training teachers to use information technology bridges a generational gap that will no longer exist when this cohort of schoolchildren become teachers. A "National Endowment for the Arts, Humanities and Science" will produce an income stream to encourage young talent for centuries to come.

This document should be an example to some of Dr Cunningham's colleagues. The thinking is original and mostly sensible. It is pragmatic and consumer-led rather than ideological and friendly to trade unions. In a small part of the Shadow portfolio, Dr Cunningham has shown that Labour can be different from the Conservatives without making itself unelectable in the process.

AND NOW FOR REAL GAMBLERS

The tables of Beirut signal that business is back to normal

The horses are prancing, the girls are dancing and the lights sparkle as brightly as the glitter of the sheikhs' bejewelled fingers. After 20 years of drear darkness, the big gamblers are back at their tables. The Casino du Liban, the fashiest and most spectacular pleasure dome east (or west) of Las Vegas, is back in lusiness. Lebanon, once the playground of the rich, the oil-rich and the nouveaux riches has found its soul again. After two decades of banditry and destruction, the resourceful Switzerland of the Middle East is again doing what comes naturally: playing host to playboys.

In Monte Carlo, the famed gaming rooms are ruled with the iron restraint of etiquette, snobbery and the merest hint of a croupier's disapproving eyebrow; in Vegas the clunks of a one-armed-bandi army disturb the velvet peace. It was always in the Casino du Liban where French chic met Middle Eastern wealth in shameless, hedonistic exhibitionism. The roués who remember Lebanon's sinful Sixties become misty-eyed when they recall the shows of yesteryear, *La Parisienne*, *Hello* and *Mais Oui*.

The casino entertainment was intended to dwarf anything that America could produce. Satellites descended fiom the top of the hall; chandeliers were fillel with dancers; a real train roared across the stage; there were elephants, waterfalls and dolphins. Inaugurated on Janurary 1, 1958, the casino was the natural home of Charles Aznavour, Johnny Halliday, Dalida and their friends.

It all had to end, when the bubble of Lebanon's festering society broke in 1976. The casino tried to carry on, insouciant of the encroaching violence, bloodshed and religious division. But the smart set drifted away, and only the determined Lebanese, manically grinning while their hands fingered the guns beneath their dinner jackets, tried to keep the fun going.

The war is now over, however. The five-star hotels are being rebuilt, the banks are again swallowing up petrodollar deposits and Beirut is one vast reconstruction site. There is a nostalgia for the old days of decadence which an enterprising Briton, the casino's new vice-president, has been quick to fill. A £30 million facelift, a brand new set of gaming rooms where the minimum bet is £1,000, and the helpful intervention of a Government always solicitous of the needs of the rich, have helped the phoenix arise. A few miles away, Hezbollah may be planning new guerrilla attacks. But Lebanese eyes will be dazzled by the glitz of the new show. Truly, the country is back to normal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Russia's threat to Nato expansion

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, The threat by Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, that Russian nuclear weapons could be targeted on Central and Eastern European states if they join Nato (report, November 29) is grimly reminiscent of the crude attempts by the Soviet Union in the early 1980s to similarly intimidate the members of the Atlantic alliance that had agreed to receive new American intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Such coercive tactics did not succeed then and should not influence current deliberations on Nato enlargement, but they are a timely reminder that the former superpower to the east remains the only real potential aggressor in Europe, should its present efforts to move towards democracy collapse.

General Rodionov's further threats to renounce Russian commitments under the Start treaty and create its own "defensive military alliance" are additional reminders that the grizzly bear has a long way to go before it becomes a teddy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT McGEEHAN
(Assistant Director),
Institute of United States Studies,
University of London,
Senate House, Malet Street, WC1.
November 29.

From Mr Frank Allaun

Sir, Russian Defence Minister Rodionov says that his country could retarget nuclear weapons towards Eastern European countries if they join Nato. He thereby confirms the warning given by Mr Gorbachev to Western leaders during his recent London visit that, if Nato expands into Eastern Europe, Russia would be tempted to tear up its disarmament treaties with them.

This is a very real danger as Russia sees Nato military forces approaching her frontiers. British troops were this autumn sent from Germany for training on the ground in Lvov previously used by Russian tanks.

It is planned to add Eastern and Central European states to the existing Nato countries. When that takes place it could mean their accepting Nato tanks, artillery and aircraft and even nuclear weapons on their territories. It has been denied by American spokesmen that nuclear bombs will be sent, but it is significant that Poland and the Czech Republic seem ready to accept the possibility of nuclear weapons being based on their soil. It is unsurprising that the Russian Government is alarmed, although it has not so clearly stated this hitherto.

Mr Gorbachev is entitled to be listened to. It was his unilateral moves beginning in 1987 which led to the ending of the Cold War and the arms race. It would be tragic if they returned.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUN
(Labour MP for East Salford, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester.
December 2.

Views on a Budget that 'discriminates against families'

From Mr James Sandilands

Sir, One wonders if members of the Cabinet talk to one another.

In the same week that the Chancellor announces that the level of financial support to London Transport is to be cut (Budget report, November 27) — a move hardly designed to discourage the trend for families to move out of the city — his colleague, the Environment Secretary, told the Commons (report, November 26) that the Government is raising its targets for the number of homes it hopes to see built on inner-city land.

The latter announcement was given in the context of a forecast that large swaths of southern and central England will be subjected to urban sprawl. This speed of this irreversible process can surely be slowed by more — not less — investment in London's infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SANDILANDS,
58 Doneraile Street, SW6.
November 28.

From Mr Tony M. Bailey-Smith

Sir, I live in a rural area with no bus or rail link to my place of work: a journey of 18 miles which I am compelled to take by car.

How can I, in the Chancellor's words, "take steps to cut fuel consumption" and implement the encouragement to "fuel efficiency"?

Yours,
TONY M. BAILEY-SMITH,
Brook House,
Aldham, nr Ipswich, Suffolk.

From Mr M. T. Gardner

Sir, The tables showing the amount of income tax paid by families at different income levels in your Budget supplement (November 27; letters, November 29) showed starkly how the British tax system discriminates against the traditional family unit of a working husband supporting a non-working wife and children.

It appears to me that at almost every family income level above approximately £25,000 per annum, a family in which all the income is earned by one person is over £2,000 per annum worse off than one in which the same *income is earned jointly by the husband* and wife.

The shortfall arises because it is not possible for a wife's unused personal allowance to be offset against her husband's income or vice-versa. Removing this grossly unfair anomaly might reduce the incentive for both husband and wife to go out to work. The result would be a boost to traditional family life and a reduction in unemployment.

Since these objectives are shared by all main political parties, why does none of them advocate the simple measure that would help to achieve them?

Yours faithfully,
M. T. GARDNER,
30 The Borough,
Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey.
November 28.

From Mrs Helga Harrison

Sir, As we have learnt from Nigel Lawson and his successors, raising interest rates — while ostensibly meant to check inflation — is mainly a tool to manipulate the exchange rate.

This is also demonstrated by the recent meteoric rise of sterling, and the hint of further increases suggests that the Chancellor's true aim is to shadow the "euro". Must we go back to another "Black Wednesday"?

Yours truly,
HELGA HARRISON,
3 Westfield Lane,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
November 28.

From the Chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities

Sir, May I take up two points in your otherwise excellent coverage of the local authority financial settlement (report, November 28). I did not claim that "the pursuit for efficiency was destroying services" — on the contrary I made it clear that the local authority associations' assessment of spending needs was predicated on achieving a further £400 million efficiency sav*ings next year. I did however make it* clear that efficiency savings could not bridge the gap between the Government's spending plans for local authorities and the cost of maintaining services and meeting new requirements.

Further, the Government is wrong in saying there is a "2.5 per cent settlement". That figure includes transfer of responsibilities and funding to go with it in respect of a further tranche of community care. Taking that out makes for an increase in spending plans of 1.8 per cent on the Government's own calculations. But even that is not being funded by the Government. Government grant on all local authority services, including the police, will go up by only 0.6 per cent or, excluding the police, by 0.2 per cent. It is this which leads to the projected average of 6 per cent council tax increase.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY BEECHAM,
Chairman,
Association of Metropolitan Authorities,
35 Great Smith Street, SW1.
November 28.

From Mr Dennis Berry

Sir, I hear the Chancellor when he says we are better off now than we have been for years, that taxes are down, unemployment has fallen, borrowing is down, growth is up and real earnings are rising. How is it then amidst all this apparent prosperity, that as an old age pensioner I have never been so badly off?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS BERRY,
11 Fairacre,
Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey.
November 27.

Saving St Pancras

From Lord Ampthill

Sir, Professor Michael Hunter (letter, *November 29) may well be right about* the lack of public consultation about the removal of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey, but his strictures that there has been insufficient attention to St Pancras are seriously adrift.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill received consideration in the Commons over 17 months with no less than 71 sittings of the select committee, a record number. It was in the Lords for six months and their select committee sat in public for 31 full days and in private or visiting sites for many more.

Both the professor and Giles Worsley (article, November 21) are possibly unaware of the procedure in a hybrid Bill of this complexity whereby many chunks of legislation are disapplied and then replaced with contractually binding undertakings and agreements to give the protection required. In the case of the Channel Tunnel rail link these amount to around 600, including a heritage deed between the promoters, English Heritage and Camden, the local planning authority. The draft deed was published on October 15 in the Lords select committee's special report, which is widely available.

The future of St Pancras, both William Barlow's train shed and Sir Gilbert Scott's chambers, was a matter of the deepest concern to the select committee and the House. The select committee is in no doubt whatsoever that it will be preserved and enhanced in the plans which are being developed by London and Continental Railways in conjunction with Norman Foster Associates.

Yours faithfully,
AMPTHILL,
(Chairman, Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill),
House of Lords.
November 29.

Kawasaki disease

From Dr Jack Gillon

Sir, If aspirin were the only treatment available for the very sick children Dr Thomas Stuttaford describes in his brief article about Kawasaki disease (Body and Mind, November 28) it might indeed be justifiable for the general practitioner to manage the child at home until the diagnosis becomes clear.

It has, however, been known for some years that high-dose intravenous gammaglobulin, or in some cases plasma exchange, can be effective in treating this life-threatening disease. These treatments can only be administered in hospital, and I would support the view that children as ill as those described by Dr Stuttaford should be seen by a paediatrician.

Yours faithfully,
JACK GILLON
(Consultant physician),
Edinburgh and SE Scotland
Blood Transfusion Service,
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh 3.
November 29.

Social security changes

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, As the minister responsible for the Social Security appeal system I was surprised to read Mr Alan Howarth's letter (November 26) on the changes I introduced recently. These are modest, practical measures to improve the efficiency of the Independent Tribunal Service and will not in any way reduce appellants' rights.

Contrary to the assertions in Mr Howarth's letter these changes did not involve any "high-handed" behaviour or mockery of Parliamentary procedure.

The amendments to the appeal regulations to which Mr Howarth refers were outlined in the recent Green Paper, *Improving Decision Making and Appeals*, where it was made clear, at paragraph 1.7, that it was planned to introduce them this autumn, subject to the usual consultation with the Council on Tribunals. The aim was to improve the current service while consultation was under way on more radical longer-*term options*.

These regulation changes followed the well-established procedure for negative resolution in Parliament — and the same will apply to the regulations changing the way earnings are calculated, to which Mr Howarth also referred. This means that a debate is not required before the regulations come into force, as Mr Howarth well knows.

Negative resolution regulations may be debated in Parliament if members seek a debate and time can be found for one. Debates on the appeal system changes took place in the Commons Standing Comittee on November 7, during which Mr Howarth spoke, as well as in the Lords on November 19. If it is the will of Parliament, the other changes will be debated in due course.

Yours etc,
ROGER EVANS,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, SW1.
November 27.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Heavy lorries

From the Director General of the Freight Transport Association

Sir, The Government has today published a consultation paper proposing extending the use of 44-tonne vehicles on UK roads beyond the present provision for certain movements to and from rail heads.

In a survey of businesses in October almost 50 per cent of respondents reported that road congestion had worsened over the previous year. This analysis is in line with the Department of Transport's forecasts for further deterioration in the years ahead. It is, therefore, imperative that we use the road network as efficiently as possible. Indeed, the public would expect industry to do so, given the likelihood that we will not see an immediate reversal of past cuts in road investment.

The arguments in favour of removing the restrictions on the general use of 44-tonne vehicles on British roads are overwhelming. They would be no bigger but would be fully rather than part laden and, having an additional axle, would reduce road wear. Their introduction would mean substantially fewer heavy-goods vehicles on our roads, with resultant savings in total mileage, fuel consumption and vehicle emissions.

Removing restrictions on 44-tonne operations — as part of a broader strategy which includes action to encourage greater use of rail — makes sense, both economically and environmentally. British industry would most certainly benefit, but so would the general public.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Director General,
Freight Transport Association,
Hermes House, St John's Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
December 2.

Libya revisited

From Mr Adrian Newman

Sir, I wish Mrs Daisy Norris, the defiant widow visiting her first husband's grave in Libya (report, November 25), my very best regards.

I travelled to Tripoli on business in June, and was met by nothing but friendliness and politeness. The Libyan people were courteous and helpful, and there was no resentment or overt signs of government interference. Indeed, the only unpleasant part of the trip was the interminably long drive from Tunisia, and the rather unprepossessing frontier posts.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ADRIAN NEWMAN,
20 Munster Road,
Teddington, Middlesex.
November 28.

Freedom of speech

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, On July 30 you published a letter from me criticising the proposal being floated by unknown Labour sources to give the Chief Whip greater power to withdraw the whip from Labour MPs who "consistently criticise the leader" when the Chief Whip does not have any existing power to do so.

Today you report that Mr Blair's office has said that there will be "no disciplinary action" against Ms Diane Abbott, the MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, for her criticism of a hospital for employing blonde, blue-eyed Finnish nurses.

What authority does Mr Blair have to discipline (whatever that means) any MP for anything an MP says, however barmy? Ms Abbott is responsible to her constituents for her silly observations, not to Mr Blair or his anonymous factotums, whose wages have been paid by anonymous donors.

What next — an *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* prepared by Mr Mandelson?

I have the honour to remain,
Sir, your obedient servant,
ROY ROEBUCK
(Labour MP, Harrow East, 1966-70),
12 Brooksby Street, N1.
November 29.

Canterbury and Rome

From the Reverend Dr Ian M. Ellis

Sir, Your correspondent Richard Owen reports from Rome (November 30) that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope will celebrate Vespers together during Dr Carey's visit to the Vatican. The significant point is that it is not Holy Communion.

Of course, one is aware that the Roman Catholic Church has its theological reasons for confining the sharing of the Eucharist, except in certain restricted circumstances, to those who are in full communion with the Pope. Indeed, Anglicans used to exclude others from Holy Communion, but reflection on the matter has changed practice.

Even within its own ecclesiology, could the Roman Catholic Church not permit inter-church families to share in the Holy Communion together, and admit members of other churches to eucharistic sharing on occasons that are specifically for the purposes of furthering the unity of the Church? The work of Christian unity can surely only benefit from the grace of the sacrament.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. ELLIS,
The Rectory,
1 King Street, Newcastle, Co Down.
December 2.

Unacceptable

From Mr Robert Worboys

Sir, In a letter today headed "Thatcher's speech", the phrases "neither of us were involved" and "neither of us were part of" are used.

I have been forced to reluctantly accept the split infinitive. I have even taken red wine with fish, but I cannot and will not accept that the word neither is plural. Nor, for the record, is none.

Yours faithfully,
R. K. WORBOYS,
60 Minster Court, Darlaston,
Wednesbury, West Midlands.
November 25.

Beak's revenge

From Mr Brian Etheridge

Sir, As a retired schoolmaster who failed in his ambition to become headmaster of a famous public school, I am planning to sue every pupil (report, December 2) who, through indolence and indiscipline, was responsible for my lack of success.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN ETHERIDGE,
Classica House,
High Street, Burford, Oxfordshire.
December 2.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at the Garrick Club, London WC2, to mark the publication of a catalogue of the Club's pictures and were received by the Chairman of the General Committee (Mr Anthony Butcher).

His Royal Highness, Trustee of the Council, this morning attended a Council Meeting and Luncheon at St George's House, Windsor.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited Nortel Limited, Maidenhead, and was received by Mr Leonard Reynolds (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire).

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner at the Garrick Club.

Mr William Husselby (Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands) was present at Birmingham Airport this afternoon upon the Arrival of President Mary Robinson and Mr Nicholas Robinson and welcomed them on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Princess Royal this evening attended the Centenary Olympic Banquet at the British Museum, London We1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 2: The Prince of Wales this evening departed from Heathrow Airport, London, for the United Arab Emirates to attend celebrations marking the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the State.

Mr Stephen Lamport and Lieutenant-Commander John Lavery RN are in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 2: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the Listening Library, this afternoon attended the Annual Meeting at Skinners' Hall, Dowgate Hill, London EC4.

YORK HOUSE
December 2: The Duke of Kent this afternoon opened the new Army Indoor Tennis Centre, Princes Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a concert of massed bands at the Festival Hall at 7.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will visit Award House, 7-11 St Matthew Street, SW1, at 2.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will present the British Quality Foundation's 1996 awards at the UK Quality award and gala dinner at Grosvenor House at 7.00.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the pregnancy assessment suite at Nevill Hall and District NHS Trust, Brecon Road, Abergavenny, at 11.20; will attend a luncheon at Nevill Street at 12.10 to mark the centenary of Findle Newspapers' *Abergavenny Chronicle*; and will open the restored chapel and tombs in St Mary's Priory Church at 2.05.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of St Peter's Research Trust, will visit the Christmas gift fair at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Brompton Road, at 12.40.

The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master, will visit the Sussex Masonic Centre, Queens Road, Brighton and will open the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution's home, Barford Court, Kingsway, Hove, at 2.30.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of The New Bridge, will attend a Celebration of Christmas concert in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 6.55, in aid of the association.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for December was won with bond number 58QN 953083. The winner lives in Devon, and has a bond holding of £9,000.

School news

Downe House
The Governors of Downe House are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Emma McKendrick, BA, currently Headmistress of the Royal School, Bath, as Headmistress from September 1, 1997.

The Royal School, Bath
The Board of Governors of The Royal School, Bath is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Christine Edmundson, currently Deputy Head, as Headmistress of The Royal School in succession to Mrs Emma McKendrick from September 1, 1997. The Board warmly congratulates Mrs McKendrick upon her appointment as Headmistress of Downe House in Berkshire.

Appointment

Mr Robert K. Littlejohn has been appointed Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Today's birthdays

Professor E.W. Abel, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, 65; Mr Trevor Bailey, former cricketer, 73; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport Executive, 73; Mrs Joan Brander, founder, The Winged Fellowship, 52; Professor Ian Butterworth, former Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, 60; Mr Charles Craig, tenor, 77; Mr Mike Gibson, former rugby player, 54; M Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 66; Miss Daryl Hannah, actress, 36; Sir William Harpham, former diplomat, 80; Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, 48; Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Professor G.S. Kirk, FBA, former Regius Professor of Greek, Cambridge University, 75; Mr Franz Klammer, skier, 43; Mr David McCall, chairman, Anglia Television, 62; Miss Tanya Moiseiwitsch, theatrical designer, 82; the Rev Professor C.F.D. Moule, FBA, theologian, 88; Mr Paul Nicholas, singer and actor, 41; Mr Victor Pasmore, CH, artist, 88; Mr Robert Phillis, deputy director-general BBC and chief executive, BBC Worldwide, 51; Mr Mel Smith, actor, writer and director, 44; Professor P. Toyne, Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool John Moores University, 57; Mr Andy Williams, singer, 66; Mrs K.M.I. Wilson, former chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, 76.

MAURICE McDONALD

Lady Antonia Dalrymple at Newhailes, the house her family has owned for more than 200 years

18th-century 'time capsule' saved for £12m

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

AN exceptional Scottish country-house, a 1730s time capsule that has remained virtually unchanged for 200 years, has been saved for the nation.

Newhailes, a stately home at Musselburgh near Edinburgh, has been acquired by the National Trust for Scotland. Historic carvings, elaborate iron balustrades and a gilt-enriched chimneypiece, of which some are showing signs of their age, will be restored to their original state. Many of the walls have not received a coat of paint since the 1730s builders packed up their brushes and left. They will remain like that.

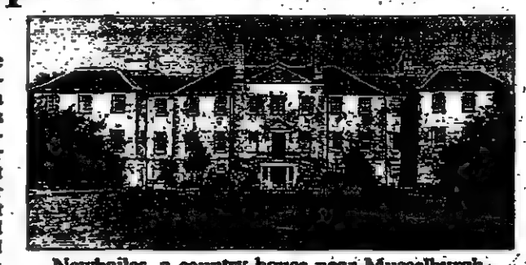
The announcement was made by Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, who responded to the National Trust for Scotland's appeal for £12.7 million. The National Heritage Memorial Trust is among other grant-giving bodies.

Newhailes's trustees and the elderly last surviving member of the family that installed its original decorations could no longer afford to maintain the house. The cost of battling against dry rot proved too much, though the idea of selling up was distressing for Lady Antonia Dalrymple. The house was originally bought by an ancestor of her late husband, Sir Mark Dalrymple, the last baronet who died in 1971. Sir David Dalrymple, the 1st Baronet of Hailes, purchased it in 1707, and it had remained with the Dalrymples — a family of judges, lord advocates and secretaries of state — ever since. Lady Antonia lived there for half a century.

Over the years, historic baroque plasterwork with gilded seashells, a motif that continues throughout the house, steadily flaked away. Lady Antonia could only save the chippings — a jigsaw that she felt would one day be reassembled by restorers. "Any money we had had to be spent on dry rot," she explained. "That's why the house is in the state it's in."

She recalled that the trustees had "talked of Christie's coming" and auctioning off the contents, while the house would be put on the market: "A horrible thought."

In 1976, she saw the house's library and archive leave for the National Library of Scotland in lieu of duties after her husband's death. Douglas Dow, director of the trust, said: "It is highly likely that, if the trust acquires Newhailes, the collection will be returned to fill the empty shelves of the library which Dr Johnson called 'the most learned library in Europe'."



Newhailes, a country house near Musselburgh, has been virtually untouched since it was built

He added: "With its matchless architecture, interiors and contents, Newhailes is without doubt the most important built property which has fallen to the trust to save since Culzean Castle in the 1940s. There is scarcely an inch of wall or panelling in the main rooms of Newhailes which has not been embellished ... Overwhelmingly, there is a sense of wonder that so much has survived unharmed."

Britain's largest art charity, The National Art Collections Fund (NACF), was the first to respond to the fund-raising campaign, donating £245,000 to buy four portraits from the collection for the National Trust of Scotland. David Barrie, director of the NACF, said: "Newhailes is enormously important. Its interior, with its marvellous portraits and exuberant rococo decoration, transports the visitor to the early 18th century and the world of the Scottish Enlightenment."

Dinners

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Dame Jill Knight, Chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host at a dinner held yesterday at Shepherd's Restaurant in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from Bolivia led by Mr Georg Prestel, President of the Chamber of Deputies.

Coal Trade Benevolent Association
Lord Parkinson, President of the Coal Trade Benevolent Association, Mr J. Martins, chairman, and Mr Bill Giles of the London Water Centre, were the speakers at the annual festival dinner of the association held last night at the New Connaught Rooms.

Athenaeum
Mr Dennis M. Marks was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Mr Michael Kennedy presided.

Bahrain Society
The Annual Dinner of the Bahrain Society was held yesterday evening at the Café Royal, London, W1. The President, Ambassador Abdul Aziz Mubarak Al Khalifa, and Sir Harold Walker, Chairman, received the guests. Mr Abdul Nabi Al Shaola, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, and Lord Prior, Chairman of GEC and the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, were the Speakers. Among those present were:
Shaikha Lamees Al Khalifa, Lady Walker, Mr and Mrs John Shepherd, Mr and Mrs El Belleidi, Mr and Mrs Abdul Karim Al Mudaris, Mr and Mrs Gamon McLellan, Mr and Mrs Eric Bowman, Sir Richard and Lady Beaumont, Mr and Mrs David Brown, Lord and Lady McNally, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Marin and Sir George and Lady Middleton.

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr R.P.V. Rees and the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor M. Phillips, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the County Hall, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Mr Neil Kinnock, Commissioner for Transport, European Commission. Councillor Russell Goodway, Leader, Cardiff County Council, presided.

Memorial service

Mr R.C.C. (Clem) Thomas
A service of celebration for the life of Mr Richard Clement Charles (Clem) Thomas, former Captain of Wales and former rugby correspondent of *The Observer*, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.

Mr Gregory Thomas, son, read the lesson, Mr Christopher Thomas, son, read from his father's works, Mrs Caroline Pomphrey, daughter, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Mr Mark Thomas, son, read his own work.

Mr Peter Corrigan, Mr Geoffrey Nicholson and Mr Chris Rea of the *Independent on Sunday*, Mr Gavin Hastings of the British Lions and Scotland, Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, BBC Television, and Mr Ian Robertson, BBC Radio, gave addresses. Dr Joyce Thomas (widow), Dr and Mrs Nicholas Rowley (stepson and step-daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Richard Wilkinson (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter) and other members of the family, friends and colleague were among those present.

Sir Roderick Barclay

A Memorial Service for Sir Roderick Barclay will be held at St Paul's, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, on Thursday, January 23, at noon. All are welcome.

Geoff Hamilton

A Service of Celebration of the Life and Skills of Geoff Hamilton, BBC Gardening Journalist, will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 11.30am, at St John's Wood Church, Lord's Roundabout, NW8. A limited number of tickets are still available from the BBC.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Ian Sumner was christened Alex by the Rev Wendy Smith at St Paul's, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, on Sunday, December 1, 1996. The godparents are Mr M.G. Sumner, uncle, and Mr Ronald H. Evans.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Miss Joanna Bogle was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Mairi Radcliff presided.

Luncheon

Coal Industry Society
Mr M.G. Cruttenden, President of the Coal Industry Society, introduced the the Right Rev David Jenkins as the principal guest and speaker at a luncheon of the society held yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr A.J.A. Third presided.

Service dinner

Cavalry Colonels
The Marquess of Anglesey, author of the *History of the British Cavalry*, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Cavalry Colonels which was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club last night.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.A.D.St L. Gethin and Miss R.A. Stewart-Wilson
The engagement is announced between William Anthony David St Lawrence, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Gethin, and Belinda Anthea, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Blair and Lady Stewart-Wilson.

Mr M. Dicker and Miss J.E. Nicholson
The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Dicker, of Bristol, Avon, and Jane Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the Rev Dr E.W. and Mrs Nicholson, of Oriel College, Oxford.

Mr J.R.O. Jones-Perrott and Miss S.H.C. Green
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones-Perrott, of Llansantffraid, Powys, and Sarah, daughter of the late Mr Bill Green and of Mrs Green, of Badingham, Suffolk.

Mr D.C.C. Pearn and Miss Wei Ji
The engagement is announced between David, third son of Major and Mrs A.W.C. Pearn, of South Petherton, Somerset, and Wei, elder daughter of Professor Hong Ji and Mrs Peng Lin Ji, of Shanghai.

Marriage

Mr S. Cunliffe Rogerson and Miss Y. Lenearts
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 9, 1996, in Canterbury, of Mr Simon Cunliffe Rogerson to Miss Yolande Lenearts, of Leuven, Belgium.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, Firwood, Lancashire, 1753; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, Kidderminster, 1795; Frederic Leighton, Baron Leighton, President of the Royal Academy 1878-96, Scarborough, 1830; Joseph Conrad, novelist, Berdichev, Russia, 1857; Anton von Webern, composer, Vienna, 1883; Rajendra Prasad, 1st President of the Republic of India 1950-62, Zeradei, Bihar, 1884.

DEATHS: Francis Xavier, missionary, Shang-ch'ua, China, 1552; Robert Louis Stevenson, writer, Samoa, 1894; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of The Church of Christ, Scientist, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 1910; Pierre Renoir, painter, Cagnes, France, 1919; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, 1962; Sir Oswald Mosley, politician, founder of the British union of Fascists, Paris, 1980.

Neon lighting, developed by French physicist Georges Claude, was displayed for the first time at the Paris Motor Show, 1910.

Dr Christiaan Barnard carried out the world's first heart transplant, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, 1967.

More than 3,000 people were killed as a result of a chemical spillage at the Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal, India, 1984.

Warwickshire lieutenancy

Mr Robert Hardiman Graham Siggers, of Wellesbourne, Warwick, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Here is a saying you may trust: If we died with Christ we shall live with him; if we endure we shall reign with him; if we disown him, he will disown us. 2 Timothy 2: 11,12

BIRTHS

AL-DOGHAIT - On November 28th at The Portland Hospital to Hanan and Emil Almamed, a son Mohammed, a brother for Reem and Jawaher.

BARRETT - On November 29th at The Portland Hospital to Samantha (née Hooker) and Alex a handsome, huggable son, Jacob.

BARROW - On November 25th to Tracey (née Curry) and Duncan, a son Jacob Charles Duncan.

BATTERBAY - On November 28th at The Portland Hospital to Julie and Andrew a beautiful son Stefan.

BURDETT - On December 1st, 1996, to Rachel (née Gent) and John, a son James Edward, a brother for Sophie.

CLIMPSON - On November 27th at The Portland Hospital to Emma (née Forbes) and Graham a beautiful daughter Lily.

GRANT - On November 29th, 1996, to Louise (née Telling) and Douglas, a daughter Lillie Tegan.

LLOYD - On 29th November, 1996, to Alexandra (née Reid) and Charles, a daughter, Eleanor Mary.

MENNELL - On November 18th 1996 to Nicky and John, a beautiful daughter Leanne, a sister for Kieran.

OWEN-ANA - On 30th November at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, to Rebecca (née Tacling) and Kunle, God's gift of a wonderous daughter, Olivia Elizabeth Adesoye. "Enlia your name to the everlasting hills.... Olivia!" (Twelfth Night).

QUELTON - On December 30th 1996 to Monika (née Walasek) and Nigel a daughter Katarzyna Jane.

ROBAIN - On 30th November to Louise (née Merrick) and Sean a daughter Lucy Ann.

WESTON - On 26th November 1996 to Candida (née Bekenn) and Duncan a daughter, Francesca Jody, a sister for Sebastian.

WINKLER VON STERNHELIM - On November 24th at The Portland Hospital to Sonia Rod (Sef) a son Thor Alexis, a brother for Nils, Maximilian, Gustav and Oskar.

ZNAMIROWSKI-TEELER - On Nov 26th at The Portland Hospital Zev and Shana are delighted to announce the birth of a son, Mosei Tov to both families.

DEATHS

ADDISON - Dr Philip Harold. Educated at Clifton College Bath, qualified St Marys Hospital Paddington in 1933, Colonel in the Indian Medical Service 1934-1945 retired. Mentioned in Burma Campaign Dispatches. In 1947 he joined the Medical Defence Union and in 1959 became their C.E.O. Born in the Seychelle Islands. He died peacefully in his home in West Sussex on November 27th aged 87 years. Adored and adoring husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday December 4th at 10.30am at the Church of St Marys Priory, Church Road, Storrington, West Sussex followed by a private cremation service in Worthing. We shall not see his like again. In lieu of flowers donations to The RSPCA c/o Tribe Limited, 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing would be much appreciated.

BALL - Oliver OBE. Beloved husband of the late Joan, proud and loving father of their daughters Susan and Sally and her husband Gerard and grandfather of Edward and Daniel. Dearest friend of Elizabeth Costley-White, and of her sons David and Patrick, their wives Charlotte and Polly and their children Benjamin, Alexander, Nicholas, Xona and Alastair. Funeral Service for family and close friends at St Michael and All Angels, Dinder, near Wells, Somerset at noon on Friday 6th December 1996. Thanksgiving Service in Wells Cathedral at 2pm on Friday 17th January 1997. Flowers or donations to the Mid Somerset Branch of the MS Society should be sent to T Wicks & Son Funeral Directors, 73 High Street, Wells. Tel: 01749 673277.

BAUDAINE - Peacefully on Sunday December 1st Major W H Baudaine MM, 2 R.U.R.C. of Laugharne. Adored husband of Angela, devoted son-in-law of the late Mr and Mrs Jackson, late of The Green Dragon Hotel, great brother-in-law of Barrie. Funeral Thursday 11.30am at St Martins Church, Laugharne. Cremation following 12.30pm at Parc-Gwyn, Narberth.

BEALE - John Henderson MBE on November 30th in hospital. Dearly loved by his wife Valerie, daughter Susan and grandchildren John, Peter, Sally and Lucy. Funeral Service at New Southgate Crematorium, Brunswick Park Road, N11 on Tuesday December 10th at 11am. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to Cancer Research or Age Concern.

BROWN - Alan aged 24 years peacefully on November 29th 1996 at the Chaucer Hospital, Canterbury after such a long fight so very bravely borne. Beloved daughter of Diana and Colin and sister of Tony. Her courage has been a wonderful example to us all. The Funeral Service will take place at 2pm on Friday December 6th 1996 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Lydden. Flowers or donations to Cobtree Meadow R.D.A. or Kent Air Ambulance via CW Lyons Funeral Directors, 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent. Tel: 01227 463508.

CORLEY - Kenneth John, on November 30th, very suddenly at home. Dearly loved husband and much loved friend and employer. Father to Peter, Charles and Ian and grandfather to Kylie. Funeral for family and close friends at St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church, Edenbridge on Monday December 9th at 3pm, followed by cremation in Tunbridge Wells. Flowers to R. Medhurst Funeral Services, Vine House, High Street, Hartfield, Sussex. Date and venue of a memorial service in January to be decided later.

CUMMELL - On November 28th, peacefully, Derek Thomas, aged 67 years, Chemicals Consultant of Clevedon. Beloved husband of Barbara, father of Becky, grandfather to Erin and Jake. Funeral service, Weston-super-Mare crematorium, Monday December 9th at 12.30pm.

CRABBE - On November 28th, 1996, peacefully in a nursing home in Cobham, Surrey, after a long illness, Reginald James Williams Crabbe, aged 87 years, formerly of Esher, Surrey. Most dearly loved husband of Phyllis, father of Susan and Anna. Father-in-law of Keith, and grandad to David, Sarah and Emma. Life President and former Chairman of Winterthur Life (formerly Provident Life). Funeral service at Christ Church, Esher, Surrey, on Friday December 6th at 12.15pm. Followed by cremation at Randalls Park, Leatherhead at 1pm. Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend. Family flowers only, donations if desired to a local hospice, care home or charity of donors choice. Enquiries to James and Thomas FD. 01932 862009.

DANKS - On Nov. 29 1996, peacefully in Dorset, Arthur Reginald (Jess) Danks MBE, T.D. aged 90. Loving husband of Serena, father of Fenella and John, stepfather of Jeremy and grandpa of Sophie and Harry. Thanksgiving service at St Lawrence's Church, Wyndford Eagle on Friday Dec. 6 at 2pm. No flowers by request but donations for either West Dorset Macmillan Service or Joseph Weld Hospice c/o Gassby FS, 16 Princes St., Dorchester DT1 1TW.

DIX - (née Wright) Dorothy Maud, peacefully on December 1, aged 86. Beloved wife of Tim, and much loved sister and aunt. Private cremation service. Memorial Service at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Bovey Tracey on Friday 6th December at 2.30pm. No flowers by request but retiring collection for the Bovey Tracey Parish Church. All enquiries c/o Coombes & Sons, 73 Fore Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon Tel: 01626 833409.

FORBES - On the morning of November 28th 1996, peacefully at his home, Dr. Fred Forbes of Abercarn, a darling husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at St. Pauls Church, Newbridge on Thursday December 5th at 11.30am. Prior to cremation at Gwent Crematorium at 12.40pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o Ellis Williams Funeral Home, 3, High Street, Newbridge, Gwent. NP1 4EY.

GARDINER-MEDWIN - Margaret, widow of Robert and mother of David, Andrew, Tony and Christopher. November 28th 1996, after a short illness. Funeral at St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, Wirral, at 1.15pm on Friday 6th December and afterwards at Frankby Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Birkdale School for Hearing-Impaired Children, Birkdale, PR8 2JY.

GRAY - On November 28th, 1996, Major Thomas Nelson Gray TD, much beloved husband of Bettye, died peacefully in his sleep at The Naze, aged 85. Funeral Service, 11am, at St. Ladoca, Ladock Parish Church, on Tuesday 3rd December. Flowers, or if preferred donations for British Diabetic Association, c/o L J Treguna, 49 Kenwyn Street, Truro, TR1 3DB.

GREER - Diana Mabel, peacefully drifted away on 1st Dec after a long illness patiently borne; dearly beloved widow of Bernard Greer, much loved by all. Cremation Service on Fri 6th Dec at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Rd, Crawley, West Sussex at 11.45am prompt. Donations, if desired, to St Catherine's Hospice, Malt Horse Rd, Crawley, RH10 6BE.

HOWARD - Suddenly on November 29 1996, Claudia Primrose, widow of Sir Gerald Howard and mother of Stephen and Gerald. Funeral Service at St. Luke's Church, Chelsea at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday December 10th, followed by family cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Royal Marsden Hospital. Enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260b Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL. Telephone 0171 352 0008

JONES - On November 29th peacefully after a very long illness Avril Lucy Johns Jones for many years Head of Art at Ancaster House School, Bexhill-on-sea. Funeral 2pm December 9th. Enquiries to Monsarrat FD Bexhill 01424 730411.

LACEY - Jennifer (née Comley) on November 29th, suddenly at home. Beloved wife of Bob and adored mother and grandmother. Service at Hereford Crematorium at 10am on Friday 6th December. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Arthritic Association, c/o Mrs Dew, 1st floor suite, 2 Hyde Gardens, Eastbourne, BN21 4PN.

LANCASTER - Cicely Valencia of Kelmarsh Hall Northampton on 29th November, peacefully, aged 98. Funeral Service at Kelmarsh Church on Monday 9th December at 12 noon. No flowers by request.

LANGLEY - Brian Marshall, formerly of London and Anglesia, County Wicklow, November 30th 1996 at St Vincents Hospital, Elm Park. Dearly loved husband of Elvee, beloved father of Tara, Alexandra, Jamie, Corin, Miranda and Cassandra Egan-Langley, cherished only son of Barbara Juby, deeply regretted by his mother-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. Funeral Service today Tuesday at 12 noon to St Kevins Church, Ballycoogue, Arcca, County Wicklow. "Sleep gently, gentle man".

LILLEY - On Thursday 28th November, 1996. Leslie Marion (Peggy). Dearly Beloved wife of Professor Geoffrey Michael Lilley, and beloved mother to Greta, Lisa and Michael. Passed away suddenly and peacefully in her sleep. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels Church, Bassett Avenue, Southampton, at 2.30 pm, on Thursday December 5th. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to MENCAP (Greenacres School) or The Royal British Legion, c/o J Lawrence & Sons, 17 St Denys Road, Portswood, Southampton, SO17 2GP.

LITTLE - On 1st December 1996, Kathleen Helen Maude aged 88. Widow of Commander David Little R.N. Mother of Edwina and the late Caroline. Grandmother of Simon, Martin & Hugh and Great Grandmother of Christian. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Thursday, 5th December at 2.30p.m. No flowers please, but donations to her memory may be made to Oakleaves Hospice, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lyndhurst, SO43 7FDH.

MASON - On 1st December, peacefully in hospital, Dr. Robert W T Mason, aged 73 years, of Holmwood, Grange over Sands. The very dear husband of Nora, the loving father of Robert and Carol, and a much loved grandfather. The Funeral Service will take place at St. Paul's Church, Grange Over Sands, on 5th Dec. at 12.00 Noon, followed by committal at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations in memory of Robert, for The Cancer Research Campaign, may be sent to G. Postlethwaite, Funeral Director, Main Street, Grange Over Sands. LA11 6DF.

McANDREW - Rita, widow of Louis McAndrew peacefully on May 30th, at Heathbourne, Worthy, aged 100. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving for her life at St Swithun's Church, Marsh, Worthy on Friday Dec 6th at 3pm.

NEWINGTON - Jack (John Tempsett) peacefully on 30th November, aged 91, at The Cedars Nursing Home, Bourne Lincs. A beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St Mary & St Nicolas Church, Spalding at 12 noon on 11th December. Followed by Burial at Spalding Cemetery. Flowers to T&P Bray, 1 Hearing Lane, Pinchbeck, Nr Spalding, Lincs PE11 3SY.

ROBERTSON - On November 29th, 1996, Jana, peacefully in her sleep. Much loved mother, grandmother, aunt, and great-aunt. Funeral service at St Luke's Church, Gaddesby, Leicestershire, on Friday December 6th at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations to The Mental Health Foundation, (to whom all cheques should be payable) would be very much appreciated, through Gluns and Gutteridge, Funeral Directors of Leicester. Tel: 0116 2516117.

SAVERY - Pallipa Katherine, beloved aunt and dear friend of many on November 27th 1996 at Bridgemead Nursing Home, formerly of Elton House, Abbey Street, Bath. Funeral at Church of St Michael, Monkton Combe near Bath at 12 noon on December 9th followed by private committal. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the Dorothy House Foundation, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon or E. Hooper & Son, 13 St. James Parade, Bath BA1 1UL.

STEPHENSON - Stephen Fraser F.R.C.S. on December 1st 1996 of Solihull. Husband of Moira. Much loved by all his family. Service at Robin Hood Crematorium, Solihull Monday December 16th at 11 a.m. all friends welcome. No flowers please donations if wished to the Chest Research Institute Birmingham Heartlands Hospital.

STORES - Peter J.F. On December 1st, aged 80. Much loved by his family and a host of friends. At his request private funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium, on Thursday, December 5th at 2pm, for family and close friends. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT. A Thanksgiving Service in the New Year to be announced later.

THEMLEY - Gwenda (Goose) beloved wife of Derek, mother of Melinda and Stephen. Peacefully on Wednesday 27th November. Goose's Funeral will be at St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne at 11.30am Thursday December 5th. No flowers. Donations to Edenhall Marie Curie Centre or Heath Harrison Ward, St Bartholomews Hospital c/o Co-Operative Funeral Services, 35 High Road, Broxbourne, EN10 7RE. Bar Hill address on.

TINNEY - On 26th November 1996 peacefully at The Grove Hornsey, Patrick Henry Tinney of Park Court, Woking, Freeman of the City of London, a loving husband and father who will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at St Dunstans Church on Friday 6th December 1996 at 10am. Flowers if required or Donations to St Dunstans Church C/O Cyril E Lovegrove, 9 Cresswell Corner, Anchor Hill, Knaphill, Surrey, GU21 2JD Tel: 01483 799191, RIP.

VAUGHAN - On December 1st, peacefully after a long and courageous fight against cancer at Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, aged 51. Margaret. Adored and dearly loved wife of Alan, and mother of Jenny and Simon. Funeral service at St Mary's West Horsley, at 2.30 on Monday 9th December. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Imperial Cancer Research, or Princess Alice Hospice, maybe sent c/o Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford. Tel: 01483 567222.

VELTMAN-JAMES - On December 1st, Elizabeth, suddenly but peacefully at home in Hengelo, Holland. Dearly loved wife of Wim and mother of Clara, Willem, Brian, Alison and Pieter and grandmother of Saskia, Bianka, Annaud, Stephen and Maarten. Funeral on Friday December 6th at 11.30am.

WALKER-ARNOTT - Alan David, aged 85. Peacefully in Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, on 30th November. Dearly loved husband of Mary, loving father of Diana and Alison, and Grandpa of James, Mark, Belinda, Nicholas and Fiona. Funeral service at St Mary the Virgin Church, Stanfield at 2pm on Friday 6th December, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to the Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Road, London, EC1Y 8JJ.

WELLS - Bill. Died suddenly and painlessly aged 82 on Friday 29th November 1996. Greatly loved and missed by wife, Ivy, daughter Julie, grandchildren Kate, Alice and Tom, the feathered birds of Beckenham and all his nature. Memorial Service to be held somewhere in the New Year in London. For Funeral arrangements ring Copelands in Beckenham on 0181 650 2295, or daughter 0151 625 3831. No flowers please.

WOOD - (née Ditton) Mary Lillian Churchill aged 82 years peacefully at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol on November 29. Beloved wife of Alfred Edward Wood and much loved mother of Pamela and grandmother of Annabel. Funeral Service at Westbury on Trym Parish Church, Bristol on Friday December 6 at 12.30pm to be followed by cremation.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SEDGWICK - Memorial Service details published yesterday the date should read Friday 17th January 1997.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 50th Birthday Elise Rose. I will always love you. Your flexible friend Access.

SERVICES

FILEMP PARTNERS: National dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 715909.

WANTED

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased. Best price paid. Inquiries/details Box No 175

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, tablecloth, quilts, embroideries, samplers, shawls, oriental textiles, costume jewellery 0171 229 9456

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, all theatre, F. Collins, B. Adams, T. Turner, Rugby all sport 0171 480 6181

HEALTH & FITNESS

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OBITUARIES

SIR CLAUDE HAYES

Sir Claude Hayes, KCMG, chairman of the Crown Agents, 1968-74, died on November 20 aged 84. He was born on March 23, 1912.

As head of the Crown Agents for six years, Claude Hayes accepted full responsibility for the crisis which engulfed the department in the early 1970s. Appointed in 1968 from his previous post as principal finance officer at the Ministry of Overseas Development, he presided over a shift in investment policy which saw the agency plunge £210 million into the red.

The organisation had been founded in 1833 to act as a procurement agency for Britain's growing number of colonies, supplying them with anything from railway track to postage stamps. It charged a low rate of commission for its services and ran at a small profit, usually under the direction of some former colonial governor who found it a congenial post before retirement.

In the late 1960s, however, concern about the agency's long-term future — and that of its 1,700 staff — led its managers to try to build up its modest reserves, by more ambitious use of the £1,000 million annually passing through their hands.

They scored some initial successes. One small company which they acquired for £8,000 was sold fewer than three years later for more than £1 million. But they found themselves trapped by the secondary banking crisis and the property crash of the early 1970s. One firm collapsed after another, exposing an embarrassing sequence of high-risk speculations and unsecured loans. It caused a financial scandal which shook the nation.

While there was no suggestion of misconduct, the Crown Agents were accused of incompetence and of acting without the authority of Whitehall. Meanwhile Hayes claimed in his defence that he had asked Whitehall in vain for a City investment expert to advise him.

As the man in charge, however, he acknowledged that the buck stopped with him. "I am to blame," he said on television. "There is no mistake about that." Earlier, in May 1974, he had agreed with the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England that his organisation was on the verge of bankruptcy.

That did not stop him from being one month later appointed KCMG in the 1974 Birthday Honours List, the same year in which he retired. Nonetheless, it must have been a disappointing end to the career of a gifted man, who had made his own way in life from humble beginnings.

The King of Tonga being received by Hayes in 1969

Claude (James) Hayes was born at West Hoathly, Sussex, elder son of the village carpenter, and financed his own education by winning scholarships. One took him to Ardingly College, from which Woodard school he went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford. There he was largely financed by a Kitchener scholarship — available to the sons of those who had fought in the Great War. Hayes Senior had served in France with the Royal Flying Corps. The young Claude was to write vividly of life at Oxford at that time in *The Awakening World* — his contribution to a book of recollections by St Edmund Hall alumni.

In 1933 he took a first in modern languages, won a Heath Harrison scholarship which took him to Strasbourg for three months then, after two years' research back at Oxford, got a three-year Zaharoff fellowship to the Sorbonne. On his return he became a senior scholar at St Edmund Hall, while tutoring at the same time at New College in medieval French. (Research students in medieval French were still calling to consult him until recently.)

He then began his Civil Service career as assistant director of examinations for the Civil Service Commission before getting caught up in the Second World War.

Already a member of the Supplementary Reserve of Officers, Hayes sailed for France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1939 as a captain in the Royal Army Service Corps. Promoted to major, he was mentioned in dispatches at Dunkirk in the following year.

He later served in Combined Operations in the front line in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, before returning for the battle for North-West Europe. He ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel in charge of supply operations at the port of Antwerp.

Returning to the Civil Service Commission in 1945, he became deputy director of examinations, then the director — and a commissioner himself. Winning yet another travelling fellowship, this time one from the Nuffield Foundation, Hayes spent 1953-55 touring the Commonwealth with his wife, studying public service recruitment and management.

By now secretary of the Civil Service Commission, he moved to the Treasury as an assistant secretary in 1957, specialising in overseas expenditure at a time when Britain was dismantling the Empire, and in 1963-64 was adviser to R. A. Butler on the break-up of the Central African Federation and the Rhodesia issue. He was promoted to Under-Secretary at the Treasury in 1964, before moving to the Ministry of Overseas Development, his penultimate appointment.

There are those who feel that Hayes's personality contributed to his troubles at the Crown Agents. Austere and often acerbic, with little small talk, he was increasingly isolated from many of his subordinates — who grew wary of giving him bad news.

Away from his desk, however, Hayes was capable of great charm and at home was a close family man. Nearly thirty years ago he bought Prinkham, a dilapidated medieval hall near Chiddingstone Heath, Kent, and with his wife Joan — whom he had met while at the Sorbonne — spent the next few years restoring it to its original glory. A serious gardener, he recreated an Elizabethan garden.

His wife died in 1984 and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

MARIA CASARES

Maria Casarès, actress, died on November 22 aged 74. She was born on November 21, 1922.

WITH the death of Maria Casarès, France has lost one of its last links to a golden age of both theatre and cinema. She worked alongside Gérard Philippe and Jean Vilar at the newly founded Avignon Festival; she formed an almost legendary couple with Albert Camus; she appeared in the films of Marcel Carné, Robert Bresson and Jean Cocteau; and in 1947 she even made a radio play with Antonin Artaud.

Yet to talk of her career in terms of a few highlights seems inappropriate. Hers was a life of passionate, almost religious commitment to the stage. Fearful of dissipating her talent, she eventually came to concentrate on theatrical work more or less to the exclusion of other forms of acting. But by then she had already established herself as one of the most powerful presences in French cinema, and it is probably for her films that she will be remembered outside France.

Maria-Victoria Casarès was born in La Coruña in Galicia. In the volume of memoirs she published in 1987, *Résidente privilégiée*, she described the people there as "mistrustful, reserved, cunning, Catholic and profoundly pagan". Her father, Santiago Casarès Quiroga, was a minister in the Republican Government engaged in the fight against Franco. In 1936 the family was forced to flee to Paris.

At the time, Maria-Victoria did not speak a word of French, but by 1939 she was applying to the Paris Conservatoire, and in 1942, a prize-winning graduate, she experienced her first triumph at the Théâtre des Mathurins in Synge's *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. The play was directed by Marcel Herrand, soon to play Lacenaire to her Nathalie in *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1943).

On the strength of her performance, Albert Camus offered Maria the lead role in his play, *Le Malentendu*. This was the beginning of a great love: Camus was her "father, brother, friend, lover and sometimes son". Though the couple separated three years later, the bond of friendship remained strong. Casarès played in Camus' *Etat de Siège* (1948) and *Les Justes* (1949), and they continued to see each other right up to his death in a car accident on January 4, 1960 (in fact, they had been planning to dine together the next day).

Though small and seemingly frail, Casarès was an extraordinarily forceful actress. An almost harsh, triangular face with big green eyes was offset by a rough voice which gave even her more subdued roles an air of welling passion, almost of menace.

In Robert Bresson's *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne* (1945) and even *Les Enfants du Paradis*, she plays women who seem all the more dangerous for having been betrayed or neglected by their lovers. Sympathy for their situation is tinged with disquiet at their intentions. Jean Cocteau made the most of this stony beauty in his two films, *Orphée* (1950) and *Testament d'Orphée* (1960), in which he cast her, opposite Jean Marais, as a seductive personification of Death itself.

In 1952, Casarès joined the Comédie Française where she gave a famous performance in the title role of Charles Péguy's *Jeanne d'Arc*. However, finding life there rather staid, she left to join Jean Vilar and Gérard Philippe in the Théâtre National Populaire, where she was to play most of the great tragic roles, from Medea to Phaedra. She came to London with the company in 1956.

In 1966 she performed in Roger Blin's production of Jean Genet's *Les Paravents*, having met the author years before through Camus. The play was the target of bitter right-wing attacks — both verbal and physical — because of its satire of the French Army. But it was a triumph for Casarès. As Genet said by way of a compliment: "You love me a lot, don't you?" Among the production's defenders was Patrice Chéreau, in whose 1983 revival of the play Casarès was also to star.

Age did nothing to diminish her vigour, or her commitment to new work. Among the authors she premiered were Bernard-Marie Koltès (*Quai Ouest*) and Marco Antonio de la Parra (*Dostoevski à la plage*). In 1990 she pulled off the feat of combining Madame Pernelle in *Tartuffe* with the part of the Pope in Genet's posthumous one-act satire *Elle*, rushing across to perform the shorter piece in the studio theatre while the middle section of the Molière was continuing in the main auditorium, and then hurrying back.

Such exploits held no fear for Casarès, but nor was she interested in them simply for their own sake. In 1993 she was outstanding in another male role, taking the lead in Bernard Sobel's production of *King Lear* in Gennevilliers. It was with Sobel, and with the Argentine director Jorge Lavelli, that she did most of the work of her later years. Fittingly, the latter's Théâtre de la Colline has an auditorium named after this *grande dame* of the theatre, whose concern for grandeur was never focused on herself, but uniquely on the passions she was portraying.

Maria Casarès and Jean Marais in Cocteau's *Orphée*

PROFESSOR A. A. HARPER

Alfred Alexander Harper, former Professor of Physiology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died on November 17 aged 89. He was born on June 19, 1907.

PROFESSOR A. A. Harper best known for his outstanding contributions to our understanding of the digestive tract. At one time this was an unfashionable subject, and basic understanding of it was poor. If that has since changed, it is largely thanks to the foundations of scientific knowledge laid down by Harper and the school which he led.

Alfred Alexander Harper was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University. Before taking up medicine, he had already obtained a first-class degree in Classics, and the benefits of that early training remained with him all his life: his scientific papers were always written with a clarity that was the envy of his peers.

He qualified in 1932. A lectureship in physiology at Leeds, 1936-37, was followed by a post as Demonstrator in physiology at St Thomas' Hospital, then, in 1939, by ten years in Manchester as lecturer and later Reader. In 1949 he was appointed to the chair of physiology in the medical school at Newcastle (attached until 1963 to the University of Durham). On his retirement as professor in 1972 he continued his research work, collaborating closely with Dr A. Hood of the University of Sunderland.

Harper's principal interest was in the functioning of the pancreas and he became a founder member of the European Pancreatic Club and contributed regularly to its meetings and to those of its counterpart in the United States. His discoveries led him and H. T. Howat to devise a clinical test to assess the functional state of the pancreas and to put diagnostic criteria on a firm foundation.

After his move to Newcastle Harper built up a research group which rapidly gained international recognition in the field of neuro-humoral control of the digestive tract. His contribution to gastroenterology was recognised by his peers in his election as president of the British Society of Gastroenterology in 1971. He also held office in the Physiological Society and was its secretary from 1954 to 1960.

Not only did he make an impact on research but he also initiated a new era in teaching in Newcastle with the establishment of an Honours School (many of the graduates went on to hold chairs in medicine and physiology). Instrumental in the introduction of an integrated curriculum, he could also claim much of the credit for Newcastle's position in the vanguard of medical education.

He will be remembered by many of his colleagues and friends not only for his contributions to science and medicine but also for his expertise as a gourmet. As a host he had few equals, and his reputation in this as in other respects was recognised worldwide by visiting physiologists.

He remained unmarried.

LAWRENCE TINDALE

Lawrence Tindale, CBE, deputy chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, died on October 30 aged 75. He was born on April 24, 1921.

LARRY TINDALE was the architect of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), the forerunner of the Investors in Industry (3i), where he was general manager from 1966 to 1972 and deputy chairman until 1991.

When Tindale joined the ICFC, it was an exclusively London-based financial institution, owned by the clearing banks and the Bank of England, specialising in long-term finance for small and medium-sized British companies.

Tindale took the institution to where its market was — outside London — establishing regional offices throughout England, Scotland and Wales. This restructuring brought directly in its train a huge increase in ICFC's business and consequently its standing among government ministers and, equally importantly, their Whitehall advisers.

Tindale's style of management was unique. Leading by example, he showed an extraordinary capacity for work and attention to detail. He expected no less from his colleagues. Those who ran the new regional branches had much autonomy but could expect to be quizzed remorselessly on their decisions by a general manager as fully acquainted with the details of each investment as they were.

Tindale was not an easy man: he lacked small talk, found social situations very awkward and could be both intimidating and abrupt, sometimes appearing, as a result, discourteous. But he was, in reality, caring, thoughtful and generous — hiding all this behind an intensity of gaze and a brusqueness of manner.

Lawrence Victor Dolman Tindale was born in Co Durham, the son of a colliery weigh clerk. Educated at Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, he was articled in the London office of McClelland Ker, a Scottish accountancy firm. But his progress towards becoming a chartered accountant was interrupted by the war. He was commissioned in the Royal Armoured Corps after being called up in 1941. He was posted to the King's African Rifles and served in Kenya and Burma.

After qualifying in 1946, becoming a partner of McClelland Ker in 1951, he was invited to become assistant general manager of ICFC in 1959 — the first external appointment, at a senior level, made by that body.

In those days, particularly under the chairmanship of Lord Piercy, the change of management style which Tindale introduced was revolutionary. He was essentially an informal manager with a notoriously low threshold of boredom, and his approach ran directly counter to the stiff-collared style of the founding management.

But under Lord Sherfield, Piercy's successor, Tindale flourished. He built up the ICFC most successfully and it was no surprise when in 1972 he was seconded to the Department of Trade and Industry to become the DTI's director of industrial development.

He returned to the newly-named Finance for Industry in 1974, remaining its deputy chairman until 1991, by which time its name had changed twice again. During his career he was a director of more than a hundred companies, including Northern Engineering Industries and the British National Oil Corporation (subsequently Britoil). He was also chairman of the council of the British Institute of Management, and a vice-chairman of the Consumers' Association. He was appointed CBE in 1971.

Tindale had a deep love of opera — attending every Glyndebourne season since 1946 and being a regular attender at new opera productions in London. He was also a devout Christian Scientist, whose faith sustained him during the long illnesses of his wife Betty, whom he married in 1946, and of their daughter, each of whom predeceased him.

He is survived by their son.

ON THIS DAY

December 3, 1849

Adelaide, princess of Saxe-Coburg Meiningen (1792-1849) married the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV (1765-1837) on July 4, 1818. She was 26, he 52. For a number of years her supposed interference in politics made her unpopular, but eventually her blameless life and lavish gifts to charity endeared her to the public.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER

(From the London Gazette Extraordinary.)
SUNDAY, December 2
WHITEHALL, December 2

This morning at 7 minutes before 2 o'clock, Her Majesty the Queen Dowager departed this life, at Stanmore Priory, to the great grief of Her Majesty and of all the Royal Family, after a painful and protracted illness, which she bore with exemplary patience.

The loss of this most excellent Princess will be deeply mourned by all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection . . .

Since her marriage 12 years had elapsed and her Royal Highness was still Duchess of Clarence; on the 26th of June, 1830, she became Queen of England. Her position was changed, but the rectitude and gentleness of her character underwent no alteration. The amount of her duties and the sphere of her influence were vastly enlarged . . . From this period may be dated the commencement of the toil, the care, and the disappointments from which Royalty never wholly escapes. She, like her predecessors, soon practically understood how "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown"; but Her Majesty and King William were not formally crowned for more than a year after their accession. That ceremony took place on the 8th of September, 1831; it was, however, much shorn of its ancient splendour; for there was no banquet in Westminster-hall, nor any procession from the Hall to Westminster-abbey; but a lengthened cavalcade was formed through the streets, the King and Queen proceeding in full state from St. James's Palace to the Abbey. It was observed that Her Majesty never appeared to greater advantage than at that memorable ceremony—never displayed more of her grace and dignity . . . It was some time before this great national ceremony that Her Majesty proceeded to form her household. Upon her accession she found the Tories in power; and, apart from any political predilections which might have influenced her dispensation of patronage, she could scarcely begin by taking a course so hostile to the existing advisers of the Crown as not to have listened favourably to their approval: if not their direct recommendation of such noblemen as the Earl Howe and the late Earl of Erroll to the offices of Lord Chamberlain and Master of the Horse, the latter peer being married to the King's daughter, and being by no means a member of the Tory party. In five months, however, after these appointments, the Duke of Wellington ceased to be First Minister and the Whigs party took possession of the Cabinet. The King when Duke of Clarence frequently supported them; they had therefore no doubt of his disposition to confide the affairs of the country unhesitatingly to their hands and so far as regarded mere Court influence, matters seemed to proceed pretty smoothly for about two years: but on the 14th of January, 1833, Lord Howe ceased to be Her Majesty's Chamberlain, Lord Denbigh was advanced to that high office, and the Earl of Erroll continued to be Master of the Horse to the Queen . . .

Tax cuts will decrease income

Pat Blair introduces a two-page report on fundraising for charitable organisations

Charities that can diversify across the broadest possible range of fundraising, marketing, trading and public relations activities are the ones that are most likely to be, and remain, successful.

So says Stephen Lee, director of the Institute of Charity Fund Raising Managers, whose members — more than 2,500 individuals covering 1,250 organisations — are specialists in the field. "It would not be appropriate," he says, "to blame the demise of some charitable bodies on the major national charities' increased voluntary income, the impact of the National Lottery or the current economic climate. In any year there are winners and losers."

For more than two years, the Institute has been tracking, quarterly, the fundraising performance of 70 charities — large and medium sized — with a combined annual income from donations of £750 million out of an estimated total income of £3 billion to £5 billion.

"Those organisations have shown a real increase in income, across the board, from nearly every different type of activity, save public collecting which has remained static," Mr Lee says. "The financial climate has been improving for some time. There is no evidence as far as we can see that there is a direct loss as a result of the lottery."

One effect of last week's Budget, however, will lose voluntary bodies money, through a reduction in the amount of tax reclaimed under planned-giving schemes. The National Council of Voluntary Organisations suggests that the one penny off the basic rate of income tax will cost charities £13.8 million a year.

Increasingly, charities are becoming more professional in their approach. At the same time they are returning to their roots, forging closer links with the community in which they work, a move that is reciprocated by business.

Far from the issue of voluntary income is the impact that the removal of statutory support, from both central and local government, has had. According to Mr Lee, it has gradually declined over the past 15 years, particularly in core support for a whole movement of activities that were founded and then sustained through statutory support. "The notion that fundraising of voluntary income can somehow make up the difference is misplaced. It never was an option and never should have been promoted as such," he says.

Reduced budgets, expenditure cuts and the effects of local council reorganisation have all struck the voluntary sector. Since local government reorganisation in Scotland in April, "we estimate that close to 1,000 jobs have been lost in the voluntary sector and about 16,000 people have lost access to services," says Martin Sime, director of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. About £10 million, 8 per cent, of council funding has been cut from voluntary groups. Small charities are among the worst hit: "The £500 discretionary grant is most affected, and that affects grassroots organisations."

Since central government grants form the greater part of council spending, Mr Sime says, the effects of the Budget suggest that when councils set their budgets in January, "we're all expecting bad news again".

But at the end of the day, the service any charity gives is dependent on its ability to raise funds — and on its optimism. As Mr Sime says: "We just hope that there are better times around the corner."

SIMON WALKER

Shopping at the Barnardo's shop in Brixton, south London

CHARITY SHOPS

THE WEDGE between charity shops and small high street traders looks set to widen.

Stephen Alambritis, head of press and parliamentary affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses, says: "Charity organisations are lobbying Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Minister, to deregulate further their trading in the high street."

Charity shops were originally welcomed by other traders because they occupied premises that would otherwise lie vacant and they sold second-hand goods. Alarm has grown that the charities have increasingly turned to offering new products.

The FSB claims charities gain an unfair advantage through business rates relief and reduced rents because they are prepared to take very short-term lets while the landlord finds a long-term tenant. However, charities claim that most of their products are second-hand goods and that landlords no longer offer cheap leases.

How to donate with the help of the taxman

Revenue rules can make giving remarkably easy on the pocket

People who donate to charitable organisations often surrender money to the Inland Revenue that could, at no extra cost to the individual, benefit registered charities, *Pat Blair writes.*

Most of the money that people contribute is not given tax-efficiently. While charities could claim back the equivalent of the basic rate of income tax — 24 per cent now, 23 per cent from next April — only about 10 per cent of donations are organised to allow them to do so.

To take advantage of tax breaks, recipient charities must, however, either be registered with the Charity Commission or be recognised as charitable bodies by the Inland Revenue.

There are three main ways for individuals to give away money tax-effectively: deed of covenant; gift aid; and payroll deduction. The first two operate on taxed income, the third operates on earned income *before* tax is paid.

The deed of covenant, the oldest method, is a contractual agreement to pay, for at least four years, an annual donation to a particular charity. The charity can reclaim the basic rate of tax already paid by the donor; higher-rate taxpayers can also claim back the marginal rate for themselves from the Inland Revenue. There is no minimum or maximum amount, although, says Vicky Pulman of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), "some charities impose a minimum to cover their costs."

Gift aid is a single one-off donation. The minimum payment is £250 in a year and there is no maximum. Again, the charity can reclaim basic-rate tax, while higher-rate taxpayers can reclaim the marginal rates. This can also be done through a charity account opened by an individual or company. A chequebook and/or a charity debit card is issued and the donor can distribute the money as he or she wishes.

Payroll deduction is the only one of the three schemes to operate on pre-taxed income. Donations are made direct from salary at source, before tax, thus also reducing the donor's tax liability. Donations can also be made from pensions that are taxed under PAYE.

Among a number of payroll deduction schemes, the best known is probably Give As You Earn, operated by CAF. But they also include the Charities Trust, and Sharing the Caring; the latter was bought earlier this year by Help the Aged, which is currently negotiating with other charities jointly to run the scheme.

Payroll giving operates through employers, who deduct the agreed amount from the employee's salary and forward it to the operator of the scheme with whom they are contracted. The scheme's operator will then distribute the money to the selected charities.

The choice of charity is flexible, says Miss Pulman. Money can be distributed as agreed by, say, staff representatives. "Another alternative is that each individual can choose the charities — up to eight through Give As You Earn — they wish to support," she says.

Companies can also take advantage of tax-efficient schemes. There is the CAF Company Account: a payment, representing the company's charitable budget net of tax, is paid into the account and CAF reclaims the basic rate of tax paid by the company, crediting it to the account. The company may then set the gross amount in the account (payment plus reclaimed tax) against profits, thus reducing its corporation tax.

● *Charities Aid Foundation (01732 520000). Company Account Inquiries (0171-400 2300); Charities Trust (0151-949 1900); Sharing the Caring (01227 711757).*

The old question: what exactly is a charity?

Rodney Hobson on the changes facing the voluntary sector

It has taken 400 years, so no one is rushing to make major changes to the legal framework surrounding charities. But Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, and those involved in charities have acknowledged that the time has come to reconsider just what is a charity.

An independent commission on the future of the voluntary sector chaired by Professor Nicholas Deakin concluded that the legal definition of what constitutes a charity should be redefined in modern terms.

Laws governing charities date back to 1601, but changes will not be easy. One difficulty will be distinguishing between charities and non-profit-making organisations such as clubs, schools and arts organisations.

Also at issue is tax relief. Some big charities earn an increasing proportion of their income by providing welfare services under businesslike contracts with local and health authorities.

While charity umbrella organisations would welcome any clarification of the position, they are reluctant to campaign openly for a change in the legal definition of charities for fear that some of their own members could be excluded. They also feel that changes might make the position more complex rather than clearer. At present, at least they know where they stand.

The Deakin report recommended that there should be extensive public debate leading to a redefinition of the term "charity", based on the concept of public benefit. It also proposed a voluntary sector Law Commissioner to keep aspects of voluntary sector law under review and an independent Charity Appeal Tribunal with powers to review decisions of the Charity Commission on the registration of charities.

Announcing the Government's response to the Deakin report, Mrs Bottomley took a sympathetic line towards charities when she addressed the Charity Directors' Network last month: "It is impossible to over-emphasise the importance of the voluntary sector in this country. There are over half a million voluntary organisations in the UK with an income of some £15 billion. Over half the adult population take part in voluntary activity each year, making a vital contribution to their communities."

The Deakin report proposed a "concordat" between Government and voluntary organisations. Mrs Bottomley replied: "I support the aim of encouraging good practice and better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Government and voluntary organisations. However, the term 'concordat' seems to imply a more rigid relationship than is appropriate, given the diverse and dynamic nature of voluntary organisations."

The Charity Commission is to carry out a review of the existing register of charities as it transfers its records onto computer. Mrs Bottomley said: "The commission has a substantial task in front of it, particularly as it is committed to promoting public discussion of the scope of charity under existing law. The Government believes that process should be completed before it decides whether more fundamental reform is needed."

She said the Law Commission would not be involved in the issue. She also expressed doubts whether a Charity Appeal Tribunal would help to clarify the law unless there was also a major revision of the procedures of the courts.

هكذا من الاصل

Rodney Hobson discovers how charities are organising themselves to ensure a tighter hold on purse strings and greater efficiency

Watching the pennies and saving pounds

Charities are flexing their financial muscles. Not only are those who hold the purse strings aiming for greater efficiency but they are also extracting better terms from suppliers and the banks.

Stephen Burgess at Help the Aged explains: "When I came into the sector I thought charity finance would be like commercial finance but there was a lot more involved.

"Unlike in the private sector, and even to some extent the public sector, you do not have customers demanding service and shareholders demanding returns on equity. Yet the public rightly demands that the money is well spent and the organisation is run efficiently."

Mr Burgess is chairman of the Charities Finance Directors Group. It was set up eight years ago by a handful of finance directors in major charities who got together one weekend to discuss a number of common issues. They found they could usefully compare notes on financial control and management and work together to do a better job.

The group now has more than 600 members from over 500 charities. Mr Burgess says: "We are in the business of improving excellence in the financial management of charities. There are two parts: making sure the standards and guidelines of good financial management are in place and helping to make sure the individuals who apply those standards are properly trained and educated.

"We work very closely with the Charity Commission, the Accounting Standards Board and the profession in the widest sense, and interpret standards in the appropriate way."

The group holds monthly meetings at the Institute of Chartered Accountants' headquarters in Moorgate, London, where the focus is on educational issues. It has a number of sub groups using the expertise of members on specific topics and has helplines to give members free advice on matters such as VAT, tax, accounting standards and investment.

Mr Burgess says: "Consistent with that, we have a role in promoting and advocating the importance of these issues so trustees and executives of charities understand the importance of recruiting the right sort of people."

The group has members from almost all the 100 biggest charities and from 50 per cent of the main grant-making charities. Although its members tend not to be from the tiniest charities it does attract people responsible for organisations with turnovers of as little as £100,000 a year.

The scope for growth is considerable. Mr Burgess says: "We estimate that something like 5,000 charities have a professional manager, although that person may not necessarily be full-time."

> ‘We voluntarily compare notes on costs of supplies and on bank charges’

Membership of the group has increased by more than 70 this year. So far membership has grown by about 10 per cent each year and Mr Burgess expects this rate to accelerate as the group markets itself more aggressively.

He says that the benefits of the group are not confined to the 600 members. "The work that we do benefits the charity sector in the widest sense of the word. The work we do with bodies such as the Charity Commission and the Government benefits all charities. For example, we do a lot of work on reserves guidelines."

Charities have general reserves that support the long term well-being of the organisation and restricted funds that are effectively earmarked either by the donor or trustees for specific causes or recipients.

Just over two years ago Mr Burgess decided to go one step further and form the Charities Consortium, which was specifically targeted at helping charities to work together to get better commercial deals.

He says: "I am in my fourth year in the charities sector after a career in the commercial world. I found charities just weren't getting the proper leverage with suppliers. Even larger charities were not getting the level of discount and quality of service with suppliers and banks that I expected in the commercial world. Now the consortium has more than 20 members in the top 30 charities, all household names. We voluntarily compare notes on costs of supplies and on bank charges."

He says Help the Aged has halved its bank charges in the past two to three years, primarily because of competition between banks. Other charities have done the same.

He says: "Longer term, we hope to provide information and benefits to smaller charities as well. The nature of the organisation is such that most of the benefits to be enjoyed are for larger charities working together but we might be able to make those same benefits available to smaller charities."

He points out that banks have been quite open in stating that they treat charities on a par with commercial organisations for business. The consortium is trying to regulate charges in the same way that commercial organisations might.

One example of this was inviting banks to tender for business. Some charity finance directors discovered that their own bank was prepared to offer concessions that the charity was not aware of.

Get set for deregulation

Rodney Hobson on the new rules governing what fund managers can invest in

Charities are facing their biggest shake-up since the 1961 Trustee Investments Act gave them greater freedom to invest their funds.

Decisions are expected early next year on two discussion papers put forward by the Government. The first, issued in early summer, proposed scrapping the 1961 Act and with it the rule that a proportion of charity funds must be invested in "narrow range" investments — those such as gilts that are considered ultra-safe but produce an income.

Last month the Government also proposed, in consultation with the Charity Commission, to alter the regulation covering common investment funds where smaller charities band together to cut costs and spread their portfolios.

The proposal is to structure the common pools like authorised unit trusts, with a corporate trustee. The exemption from the Financial Services Act could also be removed.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

A benefactress in 1879. Today, legacies still bring the top charities one third of their income

Although it is now seen as restrictive, the 1961 Act in fact gave charity finance directors greater flexibility. It laid down that only 50 per cent of investments had to be in gilts or equivalent safe investments. That figure was cut to 25 per cent in 1994.

The regulations were designed to ensure that donations were not wiped out by charities tempted to invest in high-yield but highly risky investments. During the past 35 years there has, however, been an increasing realisation that "safe" investments do not necessarily provide the best long-term returns. Shares, as the stock exchange reminds us, can go down as well as up. But over time they generally provide better returns — in the form of dividends and share price increases — than bank and building society deposits.

As Sarah Hamilton, charities marketing manager at Flemings, says: "Trustees can be just as prudent in investment as in other areas in their remit. They are obliged to act with the best interests of the charity at heart — so why not extend that to investment as well? A lot of charities depend on the income from their investments."

Even so, the Government's proposal to scrap the Act surprised many in the field of charities finance. It suggested that trustees should be given the power to invest the charity's money as if they were investing in their own right.

Ms Hamilton says: "The Government does want to retain protective measures. We agree that protection must not be diminished."

Investment advisers might be expected to favour forcing trustees to seek advice — but in fact they agree this may be undesirable and unenforceable. They believe trustees will be inclined to seek advice anyway.

The discussion paper implied that if the 1961 Act is repealed, trustees will be required to exercise a reasonable degree of responsibility but not to seek advice on most investments.

"It might be unreasonable for smaller charities to pay for advice," says Ms Hamilton. "Often there is someone close to the charity whom they could consult."

The Government looks certain to make changes, provided there is still time with a general election looming. Some charities have already got around the rules by gaining exemption from the Charity Commission or from their own governing body.

> ‘Trustees should always act in the charity's best interest’

To get round the 1961 Act, many newer charities have been established with governing documents drawn up in such a way as to give them wider powers. The Government is expected to bring all charities into line.

Charities switching to new investments may have to consider the implications of "ethical investments". If, for instance, a charity devoted to helping cancer victims chose not to invest in tobacco companies, this would be lawful even if tobacco was an attractive investment in financial terms. However, a charity could not avoid tobacco companies simply because it was run by a non-smoker. It would be expected to choose its investments on financial grounds only, avoiding tobacco companies only if it felt they represented a poor risk.

"What trustees should always do is to act in the best financial interests of the charity," says Ms Hamilton. "What clouds the issue is that some trustees may have strong personal views. That is not a justification for making or avoiding certain investments.

"Ethically responsible companies will probably do well in the future because they are already complying with the higher standards that are being enforced by law. They will not get caught out by legislation."

CBI team puts ailing firms back on track

A COVENTRY production company with 18 employees has eliminated its overdraft within six months, pepped up its manufacturing processes and is set to increase turnover from £1.5 million to £6 million over five years (Sally Watts writes).

NDE Clarke Transmissions is one of nearly 30 West Midlands firms benefiting from an initiative by two members of the regional Confederation of British Industry.

Alan Curtis, manufacturing director of Rover Group, and John Hudson, group chief executive of Wagon Industrial Holdings, saw that, by offering consultancy, leading manufacturers could enhance supply chain performance and hence regional competitiveness.

With other CBI manufacturing members they formed a steering group, contacted regional Business Links and, last autumn, started a successful pilot of company analysis and tailored programmes.

The result is the West Midlands Manufacturing Challenge, which has won £1.8 million over three years from the Department of Trade and Industry to transform the performance of 3,000 producers.

Twelve Business Links are recruiting manufacturing specialists, who will assess about 6,000 companies: at least 3,000 will carry out individual programmes to reduce working capital levels, improve quality and increase productivity, based on sales per employee.

Peter Edgington, managing director of NDE Clarke, says of the pilot: "Our adviser spoke our language and had wide knowledge of new techniques and machinery. New concepts were made understandable and achievable. We have introduced Cell-based manufacturing, which saves time, work and money, and have sold part of the business as a going concern, to concentrate on the core."

Another small firm was helped to eliminate its full facility overdraft of £100,000 in only five weeks.

"It's quite simple for a mentor company to come in and help — it's a question of knowing what you can do, and how," says Mark Bevan, managing director of Forms UK, print managers and one of 25 sponsor companies that include Rover, Wagon and Wyko. More will be added.

'Tis the season to be busy with toys and curiosities

By Widget Finn

MOST of the turnover of Sid and Diane Templar's mail order business is done in the hundred days before Christmas. Hawkin by Post sells stocking-fillers and cheap and cheerful party toys. Mr Templar describes them as "curiosities that you thought had gone forever or never knew existed".

The current catalogue, containing old family favourites such as wooden marionettes, has been developed over 15 years. The first edition was designed to sell tinplate clockwork models to adult collectors because they did not comply with regulations for safety standards in children's toys.

"We knew that there was a flourishing market for tin toys among collectors, but we couldn't sell them through the shops in case they were bought by or for children," said Mr Templar. "We then started including small toys from our suppliers and the toy side of the catalogue expanded."

Annual turnover for the first few years was well under £10,000, but while other small businesses had problems keeping afloat during the recession the national economic downturn contributed to the success of Hawkin by Post.

"Although people trade down in a recession and don't buy mountain bikes for their kids, they still want stocking-fillers and cheap presents for their children's parties," says Mr Templar. Turnover has increased 20 per cent each year since 1990, and now tops the £1 million mark. Mr Templar cultivates an amateur approach to the business, claiming that it just goes on growing with little encouragement. With two sons in their twenties now involved in the enterprise, he foresees a more dynamic expansion in the future.

The main headache in running a small business geared mainly to the Christmas market is coping with a temporary large increase in staff. For nine months of the year it is run by the Templars with a handful of helpers, but a large army of part-timers comes in from September onwards to help to send out the quarter-million catalogues and process 50,000 orders. Fortunately the temporary staff are tolerant of the fairly primitive conditions they have to work in, Mr Templar claims.

"It would be impossible for a business of our size to provide streamlined facilities for employees which would only be used for 25 per cent of the year," he said. "So there is no canteen, barely enough loos, and the car park is a field. When it rains a Land Rover has to pull the cars out of the mud."

The company is based on a farm in the Suffolk countryside and draws on temporary workers from villages in a five-mile radius, mainly women with families and teenagers for whom evening and weekend employment appeals. Christmas work at Hawkin is a local tradition, according to Mr Templar, with people coming back year after year, then disappearing again after Christmas Eve.

"Because people are working here during the Christmas season the atmosphere is more like a party than a workplace. When you're selling jumping beans and yo-yos it's very difficult to take this sort of business seriously."

For a Hawkin by Post catalogue phone 01986 782458.

SIMON HADLEY

People will always want stocking-fillers and party gifts, says Sid Templar of Hawkin by Post

Working from home can be hazardous to the health

By Brian Collett

BUSINESS owners operating from home should be aware of the poor working conditions they may be imposing on themselves.

Legislation coming into force on January 1 lays down office furniture standards and conditions for employers — but not for home-based businesses.

Sophie Chalmers, of *Home Run*, a home workers' magazine, said: "With no one to monitor how you work, and no boss for whom to sit up properly, home workers will continue to run a higher risk of back and neck strain."

In addition, domestic lighting is often unsuitable and kitchen tables the wrong height for computers, while small tables can make users twist the neck and limbs.

Fellowes, a Yorkshire company making computer accessories such as glare filters and copy stands, says seats should have minimal cushioning, to discourage slumping, and should be the right height to keep the back straight. Thighs should be parallel to the floor, feet flat and forearms level with the keyboard. The wrists should not be bent, to avoid repetitive strain injury. The advice is in *Ergonomics at Work*, a booklet covering the whole environment at home and in the office.

Richard Edwards, marketing manager at Fellowes, said the company is often asked for guidance on working conditions and runs ergonomics seminars.

Concerned home-based business owners should contact the Health and Safety Executive, which has a booklet for home office workers, said Stephen Jupp, a flexible working specialist.

Ergonomics at Work *and* Home Run *factsheets on effective home working are obtainable free from 01292 641212.*

Credit unions formed

By David Fanning

SMALL businesses in Wales are to be offered access to capital and working funds at a favourable rate of interest and with much less trouble if the Wales Co-operative Centre's latest initiative develops as planned.

Business credit unions, open to members of local business groups and controlled and operated by small business owners, will make available low interest short-term loans of up to £10,000. These may be used for any genuine business purpose, particularly for cashflow funding and venture capital. Simon Jones, chief executive of the WCC, said that a scheme in Cardiff is well on its way to being launched and another in West Wales is at the feasibility stage.

"Usually the answer to cashflow problems is an overdraft at onerous rates of interest," said Mr Jones. "The business comes more under the control of the bank. With the business credit union, you're dealing with other small businessmen."

"I feel an attack of SAD coming on"

A family run bakery in Dorset that was struggling to survive six years ago has won the best small business award from Parcelforce.

Fudge's Bakery, run by brothers Stephen and Graham Fudge and their wives, Tina and Susanne, at Leigh, is now a thriving business supplying top London stores including Harrods, Harvey Nichols and Fortnum and Mason.

It was established in 1926 by Percy Fudge, grandfather of the present owner. By the 1980s supermarkets were beginning to erode the bakery's business, while the village baker's mainstay, the farming community, was shrinking. By switching to top-quality outlets, the bakery has been able to increase the number of staff from seven to 25 and to treble turnover.

☐ Red tape has become the second biggest problem for small businesses, overtaking cashflow, reports the NatWest Small Business Research Trust. The survey showed compliance costs were equivalent to a third of the taxes paid by small companies and almost half of those paid by unincorporated businesses.

The bank has also calculated, from commissioned research, that hundreds of thousands more could be employed in the sector if the first £5,000 of profits were tax-free, small companies' corporation tax was cut to 20 per cent, the VAT threshold was raised to £100,000, and small businesses were compensated for collecting PAYE.

☐ A guide to computer data law and security, aimed at people working from home and from telecottages, has been prepared by the Data Protection Agency and the TCA, the renamed Telecottage Association, and is due out by the end of the year.

☐ The Crafts Council is marking its 25 years with an Objects of Our Time exhibition at its Islington headquarters on Thursday. The council has provided more than £2 million in grants to help craftmakers to set up studios.

☐ The British Library Lloyds Bank Business Line, opened as a free information service in 1994, has had its 100,000th call. Mechanical lizards for an advertising campaign and cattle gallstones have been among the strangest requests.

هكذا من الاصل

Discrimination after dismissal lawful

Post Office v Adekeye

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment November 13]

Discrimination against an employee on racial grounds in the course of an appeal against dismissal was not unlawful under section 4(2) of the Race Relations Act 1976 since that section applied only to a person in employment.

A person making an internal appeal against dismissal was not an applicant for employment and any discrimination against her in the determination of the appeal was thus not subject to section 4(1)(c).

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Omolara Adekeye against an order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (*The Times* February 23, 1995; [1995] ICR 540) allowing an appeal by her former employer, the Post Office, against an industrial tribunal's acceptance of jurisdiction over her claim that she was *subjected to unlawful* racial discrimination in the determination of her appeal against dismissal.

Section 1 of the 1976 Act provides: "(a) A person discriminates against another ... if — (a) on racial grounds he treats that other less favourably than he treats or would treat other persons..."

Section 4 provides:

"(1) It is unlawful for a person, in relation to employment by him at an establishment in Great Britain, to discriminate against another — (a) in the arrangements he makes for the purpose of determining who should be offered the employment; or (b) the terms on which he offers that employment; or (c) by refusing or deliberately omitting to offer him that employment.

"(2) It is unlawful for a person, in the case of a person employed by him at an establishment in Great Britain, to discriminate against that employee — (a) in the terms of the employment which he affords him; or (b) in the way he affords him access to opportunities for promotion, transfer or training, or to any other benefits, facilities or services, or by refusing or deliberately omitting to afford him access to them; or (c) by dismissing him, or subjecting him to any other detriment."

Mr Robin Allen, QC and Mr Thomas Kibling for the dismissed employee; Mr Richard Greening for the Post Office.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said the appellant was summarily dismissed for misconduct from the job as a Post Office customer care officer which she had held for less than two years. She had utilised the internal appeal procedure but her appeal was dismissed.

She had complained of unfair dismissal to an industrial tribunal, claiming that her appeal had been rejected on racial grounds whereas other workers' appeals had been allowed. The tribunal decided her application had been brought out of time and declined jurisdiction. That decision had been reversed by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (*The Times* March 23, 1993; [1993] ICR 464).

When the case was remitted to the industrial tribunal, the Post Office took the point that she was not entitled to complain under section 4(2) of the 1976 Act because she was not an employee at the time of the act complained of. The tribunal decided that it none the less had jurisdiction to hear the case under section 4(1)(c).

The Employment Appeal Tribunal held that she could not bring herself within section 4(2) as she was not a person employed at the time of the appeal hearing and determination and that section 4(1) was not intended to cover the position of a dismissed ex-employee seeking reinstatement on appeal.

Mr Allen had submitted on section 4(2) that the phrase "in the case of a person employed by him" covered both a person who at the time was so employed and a person who had been previously so employed and, alternatively, that the reference to dismissal in section 4(2)(c) included the determination of the appeal from the dismissal.

On the first argument, his Lordship accepted that discrimination might occur, for example by an employer against an ex-employee in respect of payment of wages in lieu of notice or bonuses, with impunity under the Act.

But Parliament had chosen not to make a person liable for every act of discrimination in the field of employment, but only for those which fell within the description specified in the Act.

It was important to bear in mind that it was the continuation of the employment and not the continuation of obligations which did not bear upon the continuation of the employment that was relevant.

To take an obvious example, the continuing obligation of a former employer to pay a pension to a former employee did not bring the pensioner within the description of "a person employed by him" if employment must continue to subsist. His Lordship accepted Mr Greening's submission that the words "in the case of a person employed by him" meant "in the case of a person who is employed by him".

The appeal tribunal had been right to hold that section 4(2) protected only those whose employment continued at the time of the act of discrimination.

The fact that the dismissal letter reminded the appellant of the internal appeals procedure did not turn what was worded as an unconditional dismissal into a conditional one. To argue that the dismissal did not take place until the conclusion of the appeal was contrary to *J. Sainsbury plc v Savage* ([1981] ICR 1).

Mr Allen had submitted that section 4(1) should be so construed that the decision of an employee to appeal should be treated as an application for employment, so that a decision to refuse the appeal was a decision refusing or deliberately omitting to offer him employment.

But such a construction would not accord with the ordinary meaning of the language of the subsection. The appellant was seeking not an offer which could be accepted or refused but the reversal of a decision to dismiss.

Mr Allen had also submitted that article 5.1 of the Equal Treatment Directive (76/207/EEC) (OJ 1976 L39 p40) imposed an obligation on the UK to ensure that there could be no discrimination between a man and woman on an internal appeal against dismissal even if employment had ceased by the time of the hearing.

He submitted that the relevant sections of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 should be construed in a way which complied with the directive, as should the 1976 Act.

That submission involved saying that although the 1976 Act, on its proper construction as a matter of English law, did not protect a person whose employment had ceased and although the equal treatment directive had no application whatever to the 1976 Act, none the less to achieve consistency with the 1975 Act to which the directive was relevant, the 1976 Act should be given a meaning which otherwise it could not bear.

His Lordship knew of no authority which compelled such an extraordinary result.

It was unsatisfactory that the 1976 Act did not extend to give a remedy to an ex-employee pursuing an appeal against dismissal. But the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Hirst gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Anthony Gold, Lerman & Muirhead; Mrs Catherine Churchard, Croydon.

Road includes way used for passage of vehicles

Cutter v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment November 22]

The definition of a road in section 192 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 denoted any way used for the passage of vehicles and therefore included areas in a public car park marked out for the passage and parking of vehicles.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Stuart Richard Cutter, from the dismissal by Deputy Judge Kee on September 21, 1995, at Tunbridge Wells County Court, of his claim against the defendants, Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd, for damages for personal injuries received when he was a passenger in a motor vehicle parked in a parking bay in a multi-storey car park in Tunbridge Wells on July 21, 1991, on the ground that the accident had not occurred on a road. The plaintiff had previously obtained judgment against the driver, totalling, with costs, £15,575.54.

Section 192 of the 1988 Act provides: "'Road', in relation to England and Wales means any highway and any other road to which the public have access."

Mr Richard Barraclough for the plaintiff; Mr Charles Corry-Wright for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the plaintiff was injured when a friend, and owner of the car, lit a cigarette thereby igniting the gas from a leaking aerosol can in the rear of the vehicle. The defendant conceded that the accident and injury arose out of the use of the vehicle but contended that the car was not on a road as defined in section 192 of the 1988 Act.

The definition was clearly intended to include roads which were not highways but to exclude roads to which the public did not have access. There were therefore two separate questions: (i) Was the place in question a road; and (ii) If it was a road, did the public have access to it?

The public had access to the Great Hall multi-storey car park in Tunbridge Wells for the purpose of leaving their cars on payment of a fee and, if it was conceded that the car park or any part of it could be considered a road, it was a road to which the public had access.

The draftsman, by adopting the definition in section 192 from successive road traffic Acts, obviously intended to combine in one definition the "highway" in section 1, the "road" in section 6 and the "roadway" in section 20 of the Motor Car Act 1903.

In his Lordship's view, "roadway" denoted any way used for the passage of vehicles and he would so interpret the word "road" in section 192 of the 1988 Act.

Because of the vast increase in the use by the public of motor vehicles, the size of car parks generally had greatly increased. Many superstores and and shopping centres provided very large areas for car parking which were laid out on a similar plan.

When in the open air they were frequently landscaped and the areas on which drivers were expected to drive were often bounded by kerbs giving the access ways an appearance more readily recognised as a conventional road. On entering from the public highway, a driver might not even pause to take a ticket, but drive directly to an unoccupied space.

The origin of the definition of "road" in section 192 of the 1988 Act could be traced to the 1903 Act, an Act introduced for the protection of the public.

The origin of the provision in section 151 of the 1988 Act requiring an insurer to meet a judgment obtained in respect of a compulsory insurable risk was section 10 of the Road Traffic Act 1934 passed when it had become clear that such a measure was necessary to secure that the victims of accidents actually received the compensation awarded to them.

Taken in the context of the legislation as a whole, his Lordship considered that the definition in section 192 should be given a meaning consistent with the intention to protect the public and to secure compensation for third parties injured or caused damage by the use of motor vehicles. He would give the definition a broad rather than a confined meaning to achieve the declared aim of the statute.

After considering *Harrison v Hill* ([1932] JC 13); *Bugge v Taylor* ([1941] 1 KB 198); *Griffin v Squires* ([1958] 1 WLR 1106) and *Oxford v Austin* ([1981] RTR 416) his Lordship said that in those judgments, and in the present case, too great an emphasis had been placed on seeking to answer the question: "Was the car park a road?"

He considered that the question would more correctly be posed by asking: "Was there within the car park a roadway?"

In the present case there was within the Great Hall car park a roadway, that is, a way marked out for the passage of vehicles controlled by conventional traffic signs and markings and regularly used by members of the public seeking a car parking space.

The risk of accidents causing injury arising out of the use of cars on that roadway was scarcely less than on any other road. Members of the public, whether driving vehicles or leaving and returning on foot to them, or merely walking through the car park, could as easily be injured as in many of the open air car parks that had been mentioned. There were moreover many other situations in which cars might be driven on defined routes over open spaces or land when attending sporting events or other entertainment.

The fact that a car was being driven to or from a parking space as opposed to using the way through the field or area in question as a route from one road to another, ought not to decide whether or not an injured person was paid the compensation for which he had obtained judgment. Nor, for example, ought it to decide whether, if an accident occurred, a driver was under a duty to give his name and address.

Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balcombe agreed that the appeal should be allowed.

Solicitors: Max Barford & Co, Tunbridge Wells; Mr C. M. Sinclair-Jenkins.

Provincial specialist firm gets paid more than local rate

Jones and Another v Secretary of State for Wales and Another

Before Mr Justice Buckley

[Judgment October 24]

Where a provincial firm of solicitors was more specialised than was the norm for the area, a taxation of costs made in relation to its work could be calculated at a higher hourly rate than the local norm. The fixing of local rates for taxation could be used in most cases but that should not be allowed to render taxation a formality by displacing the exercise of discretion in each case.

Mr Justice Buckley, sitting with Master Rogers and Mr C. B. E. Jacque as assessors, so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the appeal of the Secretary of State for Wales and Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, to the extent of substituting a £100 hourly rate for one of £75, against the decision of Master Seager Berry of March 22, 1996 to uphold a taxation of costs regarding the charges of Pitmans, Reading, for their work for Anthony and William Jones in their successful appeal against the secretary of state's and the council's determination of a planning application.

The solicitors were not an average provincial firm being specialists in, inter alia, commercial and planning work. The majority of partners and nearly all the assistant solicitors had backgrounds with firms in the City.

Costs were taxed on the basis of £68 an hour which was the rate adopted by Reading County Court. The amount was a flat rate taking no account of the different costs of work done by partners and assistant solicitors.

Mr Martin Ferber for the secretary of state; Mr Stephen Lloyd for the solicitors; the borough council did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that there were obvious disadvantages in departing from the well established rule that the hourly rate was to be calculated largely by reference to the local average and nothing his Lordship said was intended to encourage such a departure in ordinary cases.

However, in a case such as this and providing the master was satisfied that the firm in question was clearly outside the range of local solicitors that went to make up the average rate, his Lordship could see nothing wrong in a higher rate. The higher rate would not be appropriate if the firm had engaged in a case which could reasonably have been handled by other local firms. The costs would not then have been reasonably incurred.

In this case the master decided that it would have been reasonable to instruct a London firm with the necessary expertise had Pitmans not been available in Reading.

In accordance with *Wraith v Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd* ([1996] 1 WLR 617) London rates would then have been allowed on taxation. It would be odd and undesirable if the higher London rate could be recovered by a London firm but not a somewhat lower rate by Pitmans, for doing a case which otherwise would probably have to be handled by a London firm. In principle, the master was correct to consider a higher rate than the one fixed by Reading County Court. However, his Lordship and his assessors were not satisfied by the master's stated conclusion. He did not appear to base his figure on any evidence of Pitmans' overheads.

Where a solicitor wished to challenge what might have become the going rate in any area or, as here, to make a special case, he certainly should be required to produce evidence.

His Lordship's assessors felt that £100 was high. His Lordship allowed the appeal to the extent of substituting £75.

Finally, his Lordship was uneasy about the practice in certain county court and district registries of simply fixing a figure and applying it to all cases.

Quite apart from the fact that the £68 drew no distinction between a senior partner and an assistant solicitor, the practice did not amount to an exercise of discretion or judgment in a particular case and might well not reflect a reasonable amount.

A taxing officer had to exercise his judgment. A local figure, if it was the result of sensible local research and discussion, might fairly be adopted in most cases, provided it was kept up to date. If, as his Lordship's assessors feared might be the case, the figure was imposed by the taxing officer without full discussion and agreement, it might well not reflect a reasonable amount.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Pitmans, Reading.

No legitimate expectation of home leave

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Hargreaves and Others

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Pill

[Judgment November 20]

The inmate compact which prisoners signed with Risley Prison and which before November 1994 offered them the opportunity to apply for home leave after serving one-third of their sentence, provided they behaved themselves, did not give rise to a legitimate expectation which could be enforced by way of judicial review.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department had not acted unreasonably in restricting home leave to prisoners who had served half their sentence, although it was unsatisfactory that the compact should not have plainly indicated that the home leave offer was subject to the regime currently in force at the time of the home leave application.

It was not for the court to determine the overall fairness of the Home Secretary's decision of substance. The proper test was whether the decision to change the policy was unreasonable in the *Wednesbury* sense ([1948] 1 KB 223).

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Craig Hargreaves, Kevin Briggs and Brendan Green against the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice McCullough) on July 25, 1995 of their application for judicial review of a decision by the Home Secretary to implement a new scheme restricting the eligibility of prisoners to apply for home leave and of the order of the governor of Risley Prison applying the new scheme to them.

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Terence Gallivan for the appellants; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the three appellants were category C prisoners at Risley who when they began their sentences would have been entitled to apply for home leave after serving a third of their time. Under the changed scheme, introduced by the Prison (Amendment) Rules (SI 1995 No 983), they were entitled to apply only after having served half their sentence.

Their case was that the new policy had deprived them of a legitimate expectation of being considered eligible for home leave after serving one-third of sentence. Each prisoner relied on the terms of a notice received from the prison authorities when he began his sentence and also on the terms of the compact he entered with the prison governor at the same time.

On admission, each appellant had been issued with a *Notice to Prisoners* which under "Home Leave" said: "You can apply for short-term home leave after serving one-third of the total term of sentenced imprisonment, and at six-monthly intervals after that."

At the same time each applicant was invited to sign and did sign a compact. Such compacts were the subject matter of a recommendation of Lord Woolf's report in 1991 and were current in 61 prisons by mid-1994.

The Risley compact stated: "The prison promises to provide ... the opportunity to apply for temporary release or for home leave over and above the minimum facility." There followed a number of matters to which the prisoner was expected to commit himself, such as treating the staff with respect and never using violence.

The Home Secretary had announced changes to home leave arrangements in November 1994. There was a considerable body of evidence demonstrating the severely traumatic effect of the change on the appellants and other prisoners.

The Divisional Court had placed strong reliance on *Re Findlay* ([1985] 1 AC 318). They had rejected a submission that, while giving a margin of appreciation to the secretary of state, the court should conduct a balancing exercise based on fairness and proportionality, not apply a *Wednesbury* test.

The court had also held there was no reason to conclude that what had been done in the instant case was a breach of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In *Re Findlay* the Home Secretary had decided to change parole arrangements for certain serious offenders. They had been represented by Mr Stephen Sedley, QC. Lord Scarman had held that the most a convicted prisoner could legitimately expect was that his case would be examined individually in the light of whatever policy the secretary of state saw fit lawfully to adopt. The instant case was indistinguishable from *Re Findlay*.

Mr Elias had based his argument in support of the balancing exercise on the decision of Mr Justice Sedley in *R v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Hamble (Offshore) Fisheries Ltd* ([1995] 2 All ER 714). The judge in that case had held that it was the task of the court to determine the fairness of a minister's decision, not to accommodate reasonable expectations which the policy would thwart.

Mr Beloff had rightly characterised that approach as heresy. On matters of substance, as contrasted with procedure, *Wednesbury* provided the correct test. Mr Justice Sedley's ratio in the *Hamble* case should be overruled in so far as he propounded a balancing exercise to be undertaken by the court.

The change of policy did not breach article 8. In his Lordship's judgment the fundamental interference with respect to family life in the instant case was brought about by the lawful sentences of the court. There was no suggestion that any appellant was cut off from his family altogether, since prison visits continued as usual.

The notice about home leave made clear that home leave was a privilege, and the compact stated that consideration for home leave was available "when you become eligible", with no representation as to timing. In his Lordship's judgment the documents taken together were not a proper foundation for the legitimate expectation contended for.

It was nevertheless most unsatisfactory that documents of such importance to prisoners should be other than completely clear and unambiguous. His Lordship trusted that in future great care would be taken to ensure that all references to home leave or other privileges in such documents stated unequivocally and in plain language that eligibility for such privileges would be subject to the regime currently in force at the time of the application.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed and Lord Justice Pill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Reece Davis Wood Wild & Co, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor.

McGovern enjoys cracking good month of November

THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SKY sports interactive

THE end of November brings two sets of winners in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game. Mr M. McGovern, of Liverpool, wins £1,000 for the monthly prize, scoring 82 points over November with his team March Pass. The weekly prize of £250 has been won by Mr R.A. Tiri, of London, who scored 35 points last week with his team Inter Anna.

In the overall competition, John Hunt remains in front, eight points clear of the chasing pack. Mr Hunt now boasts six of his Taunton teams in the leading 25 selectors; the challenge, as he readily admits, is keeping them there. He had better beware: one of the Gohils, pipped at the post last year, is lurking in fifth position.

Mr Tiri's team is:

Goalkeeper
A Goram (Rangers)

Full backs
P Atherton (Sheffield Wed)
S Staunton (Aston Villa)

Central defenders
D Matteo (Liverpool)
R Scimeca (Aston Villa)

Midfield players
N Ardley (Wimbledon)
N Butt (Manchester Utd)
S Donnelly (Celtic)
B Laudrup (Rangers)

Strikers
P van Hooijdonk (Celtic)
I Rush (Leeds Utd)

Manager
J Kinnear (Wimbledon)

Two goals on Saturday for Bridges, of Sunderland, could lead to an extended run and a good haul of ITF points

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS ASSOCIATION

If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 866 968** line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call **0044 990 200 668.**

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

☐ ***All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

OUT

20803.....	Jason Kavanagh	Derby County	£0.25m
32804.....	Jason Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	£0.50m
42602	Neil Heaney	Southampton	£1.00m
62604.....	Frankie Bennett	Southampton	£0.25m

LOANED PLAYERS

D Wassell (Derby to Manchester City, two weeks); T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, one week); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, two weeks); R Ferdinand (West Ham to Bournemouth, one week); J Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, two weeks); G Peacock (Chelsea to Queens Park Rangers, three weeks); M Stein (Chelsea to Stoke, three weeks); D Kerslake (Tottenham to Swindon, three weeks); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, four weeks); P Tisdale (Southampton to Huddersfield, four weeks). *Loan periods subject to fluctuation.*

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but games decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	**All players**	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	**Manager**	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

ITF

Call 0891 866 968

* Telephone from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

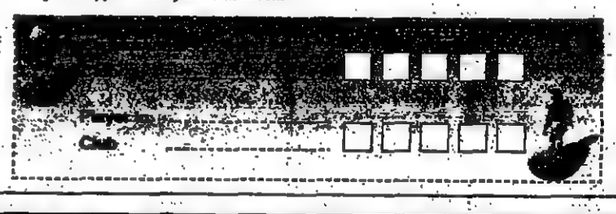
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £36 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

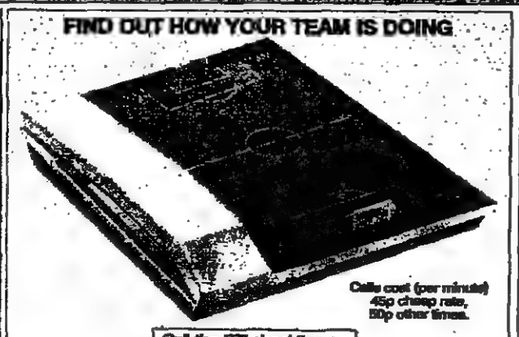
Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.



THE LEADING 25 ENTRIES [illegible]

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	291
2	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	283
3	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	279
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	275
5	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	272
6	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	270
7=	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	268
7=	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	268
9=	Storm	(P Mills)	267
9=	Skyforest	(A Burton)	267
11	Gingerers	(A Lone)	266
12	Orvieto Classico	(J Bradshaw)	264
13	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	263
14	A2	(K Farhall)	261
15=	Jones Boys 8	(M Jones)	260
15=	Moon Machine	(P Ford)	260
15=	NST Monkstone	(J Staszkiewicz)	260
15=	Daggers	(V Cox)	260
19	Riggy's Rovers	(A Rigg)	259
20=	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	258
20=	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	258
22=	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	257
22=	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	257
24=	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	256
24=	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	256
24=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	256
24=	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	256
28	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	254
29=	Team C	(A Lone)	252
29=	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	252
31=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohil)	251
31=	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	251
33	AB 4	(A Boyland)	249
34=	Le Beaufishers	(J Roebuck)	248
34=	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	248
36=	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	247
36=	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	247
36=	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	247
36=	Nobby	(J Brown)	247
36=	The Dandies	(C C Vevers)	247
41=	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	246
41=	A	(M Corless)	246
43=	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	245
43=	Redtrapp's Rovers	(B Emson)	245
43=	Robins Raiders	(P M Handley)	245
43=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	245
47=	Claremont Loyal	(B Fox)	244
47=	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	244
47=	Abc	(M Baber)	244
47=	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	244
51=	Polly's Pride	(P Smiley)	243
51=	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	243
51=	Team A	(A Lone)	243
51=	God's Allrounders 2	(S A Godfroy)	243
55	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	242
56=	Pin Ups Two	(P Tusler)	241
56=	Aldecentic Villa	(M Jukes)	241
56=	Brown's Boys XI	(P Brown)	241
59=	Inter The Wallet	(M Ward)	240
59=	Hove Rovers 3	(N Goddard)	240
59=	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)	240
62=	FC Pants	(J Mullock)	239
62=	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	239
62=	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swirles)	239
62=	Arth's Allstars	(A Bangi)	239
62=	Brainbows United	(S Weiss)	239
62=	Mars FC	(M Baber)	239
62=	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	239
69=	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	238
69=	Nomads	(N Broom)	238

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p other times.

Call the ITF checkline on **0891 884 643**
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

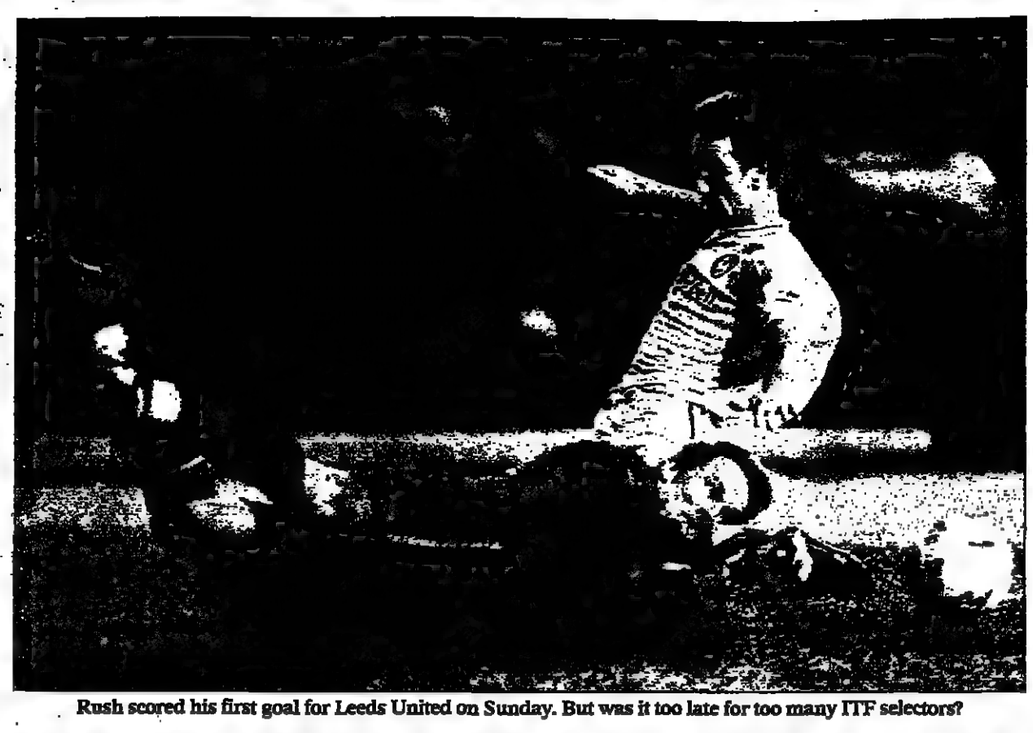
Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
69=	Bubwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	238
69=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	238
69=	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	238
69=	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	238
69=	Bow Utd	(K J Burns)	238
69=	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	238
77=	Hanchalount AFC 3	(R J Ward)	237
77=	T 36	(T Baseren)	237
77=	I	(M Corless)	237
77=	Alrafir	(I Pyfe)	237
77=	The Tomsters	(C C Vevers)	237
82=	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	236
82=	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	236
82=	Gasbill	(R Rowe)	236
82=	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	236
86=	Brown Moles	(H Brasher)	235
86=	March Pass	(M McGovern)	235
86=	1st Eleft	(K J Burns)	235
86=	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	235
90=	Jones Boys One	(M L Jones)	234
90=	Porcelain Gods	(P Ryan)	234
90=	Jenny's Sisters	(D S Mills)	234
90=	Ziggy's Boys	(Z Ahmed)	234
90=	Sky Times III	(L McCullough)	234
90=	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	234
90=	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	234
97=	Bogalings	(S Birchfield)	233
97=	Glen Dullen	(S Wilson)	233
97=	Bonky Boys	(R Crook)	233
97=	Pamela Anderson	(P Hands)	233
97=	Icarus	(B Wells)	233
97=	Clover Vale	(N Ensingh)	233
97=	The Passion	(W E Parker)	233
97=	Revenge On Judas F	(N Hir)	233
97=	Abdul's Revenge	(D Ritchie)	233
97=	Lynne's Lions	(L Hiorns)	233
97=	Pacific All Star	(T Leonard)	233
97=	Harl Karl XI	(H Karl)	233
97=	Warped XI	(D Mclean)	233
110=	Northwood XI	(S Mullaney)	232
110=	Chine Castle	(B Gohil)	232
110=	Jas 2	(J Clayton)	232
110=	The Big Men	(K Booth)	232
110=	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	232
110=	Toto Calcio	(A Days)	232
110=	Edmo Dad	(D Edmondson)	232
110=	Dynamo Hilas	(S Miller)	232
110=	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	232
119=	Albion Harrien XI	(A Hynes)	231
119=	Beyond Fault	(P Foster)	231
119=	G Money FC	(G Samuels)	231
119=	Ace's High	(N Avery)	231
119=	Real Ale Rivos	(C Blackshaw)	231
119=	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	231
119=	Where's Ney Gone?	(P Fromm)	231
119=	Adelade	(L Clark)	231
119=	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	231
119=	Wether's Wanderers	(D Wetherall)	231
129=	PT's Top Team	(T Tidmarsh)	230
129=	Irwin's Best	(L Sampson)	230
129=	Mark's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	230
129=	Fendon United	(E Cowen)	230
129=	Motley Town	(K McGuire)	230
129=	Flying Foreigners	(D Thomas)	230
129=	The Bubbly Eggs	(I Goodman)	230
129=	Red Star Belgravia	(R Keenan)	230
137=	Athletico Storm	(P Mills)	229
137=	The Meadow	(D Booth)	229
137=	Fortune Seekers	(A J Finkel)	229
137=	Alice	(I Pigeon)	229
137=	4 4 2	(K Browne)	229
137=	T 20	(T Baseren)	229
137=	Trouble Shooters	(R Pritt)	229
137=	Jane's Giants	(J Longton)	229
137=	Plastic Fibers 10	(T Feehily)	229
137=	Graham's Gringos	(G F Passey)	229
137=	Soccer Superstars	(J McCallion)	229
137=	Turnip United	(C Ashe)	229
137=	Turner's Earners 2	(P Turner)	229
137=	AS	(K Farhall)	229
151=	Dear Old Things	(J Saunders)	228
151=	Cardinal Athletic	(N Skipper)	228
151=	AC Fantasy FC	(M Skipper)	228
151=	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	228
151=	Ian's B Team	(I W Donaldson)	228
151=	Jason's Boys Four	(J Gerring)	228
157=	ST Utd	(M O'Brien)	227
157=	No Mickfakt	(J B Portwood)	227
157=	The Premier Dream	(D Lewis)	227
157=	AC Cambridge	(L Hoe)	227
157=	Gauntlet FC	(C J Eldred)	227
157=	Barry's Team	(B Matthews)	227
157=	Botak United 1	(J Pull)	227
157=	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	227
157=	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	227
157=	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	227
157=	Gas3	(A Muir)	227
168=	Turner's Tigers	(C Turner)	226
168=	Choim Chix 88	(C Scarlet)	226
168=	The Great Dane	(K Booth)	226
168=	Triple Top Tim	(P Bailey)	226
168=	Jolding	(P Fallon)	226
168=	Hopefist Hotshots	(H Rimmer)	226
168=	Priory Rangers	(J Palmer)	226
168=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	226
168=	Arrogant FC	(F K Taylor)	226
168=	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)	226
168=	Olivia United	(F Beesley)	226
168=	Oct96-ITF Cheaps	(M Skelden)	226
168=	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	226
168=	Dan Savie Obe	(S Murray)	226
168=	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	226
168=	E	(M Corless)	226
168=	Jules Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	226
186=	Nobby J	(J Brown)	226
186=	Eric's Alleoris	(E Routledge)	225
186=	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscell)	225
186=	Stretham Town	(M Akinlade)	225
186=	Over The Moon FC	(I Roskell)	225
186=	Former Champions	(A Mutheiah)	225
186=	Henry's Crowd	(G Hodgson)	225
186=	Insomniacs	(L A Tomlinson)	225
186=	Blue Brazil	(D Nicholls)	225
186=	FC Big Hands	(A Martin)	225
186=	Bumbles XI	(S Jones)	225
186=	Aldo Is Great	(J Holliday)	225
186=	Sporty Big Bone	(J Staszkiewicz)	225
186=	U Vest Us	(T Staszkiewicz)	225
186=	Le Boeuf And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	225
186=	Tolled Five	(E Kisby)	225
186=	Alic	(M Baber)	225
186=	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	225
186=	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	225
204=	Spices 624	(J Doody)	224
204=	CJ United	(P Sutton)	224
204=	Born Losers	(P Perkins)	224
204=	Full Rovers	(P J Butler)	224
204=	Cavacci's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	224
204=	Steakly	(K O'Shea)	224
204=	West Brom The Best	(C Jones)	224
204=	Glens Win World Cup	(F Geary)	224
204=	Zig Zag Zak 25	(J Zak)	224
204=	Steady Scorers	(J Stevenson)	224
204=	Anorak Addick	(N Wiltshire)	224
204=	Sheep Shearers	(T E Upton)	224
204=	Johnny's Giants	(J Jones)	224
204=	Wol's Wonders	(J Willis)	224
204=	BCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	224
204=	Mlettia	(R Lockyer)	224
204=	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	224
204=	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	224
204=	SJ2	(J W Goody)	224
204=	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	224
224=	Dave's First XI	(D Cullen)	223
224=	Devon Dauions	(D G Flory)	223
224=	HDG Is Out Of Order	(N Wheatley)	223
224=	Bristol Rovers Reserve	(G Cox)	223
224=	Bell Watchers	(J Murray)	223
224=	Ginger	(T P Leah)	223
224=	Sarsaparilla	(G Bowe)	223
224=	—	(Z Whinnett)	223
224=	12 Sick Parrots	(T Mayor)	223
224=	Jesbud FC	(J A Hemming)	223
234=	Peer-Shaped FC	(R M Sands)	222
234=	Suu Can Be Talking	(R Laskowski)	222
234=	VFM Overseas	(M A Wilson)	222
234=	Jobber Staid	(W Clarke)	222
234=	Noir We Are Two	(J McKeown)	222
234=	Welland United	(T Shelley)	222
234=	Enid Four	(J Feather)	222
234=	Justtimme	(A Kent)	222
234=	Penlan	(I S Larkin)	222
234=	Parlez Vous	(A Weir)	222
234=	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	222
234=	Crouch End Rovers	(M Mitchell)	222
234=	Rainbow Warriors	(S Weiss)	222
234=	Guilti United	(S Getgood)	222
234=	Simmentals	(M Connolly)	222
234=	Langaller Lads	(N Finch)	222
234=	Kienchow Eleven	(K Ling Yee)	222

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-5	+1
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+27
10202	V Bertram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	-1	-10
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+1
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	+5	+9
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-4	-18
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-20
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-16
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-1	-7
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-10
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-1	-19
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	-6
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	-3	-9
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+5	+4
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-25
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5	-1
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-6
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-5	-10
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	+8
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	-12
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-7
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-3	-20
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3
12102	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	0
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-4	-28
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+5	-19
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+5	+24
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+5	0
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-10
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	-3	-19
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	-8
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+15
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	+5	-10
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	+5	+8
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	-2	+10
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+2	+21
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+18
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+4
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+17
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+3	+20
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+16
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-3
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	+2
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-2	-4
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1	+7
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	-1	0
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	-1	+7
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	-1	+2
20603	T Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	-1	+4
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-7
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-4
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+4
20705	R Genaux	Coventry City	1.50	0	-2
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	+5
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+2
20803	J Kavanagh	Derby County	0.25	0	0
20804	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+8
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-1	+2
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	+3
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-6
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	0
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	-1	+10
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	-2	+9
21104	M Jackson	Everton	1.00	0	0
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	0
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	-3	-4
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	+4	+9
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	+4	+16
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	-13
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+10
21502	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0	-1
21503	P Beesley	Leeds United	0.50	+3	+6
21601	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	-2	+4
21603	N Lewis	Leicester City	0.50	-2	-2
21604	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
21703	S I Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.50	0	+16
21704	P Charnock	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+13
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+9
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	0
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	-2	-10
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-6
21905	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	0
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	-1	+1
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-1
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+10
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+1	-1
22202	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	-1	-8
22203	A I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-1	0
22204	N Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+1
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-8
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-5
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	+6	+9
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+9
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+15
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	+1	-4
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-1	-4
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	-6
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	-1	+3
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+11
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	-1	+6
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	0	-1
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+20
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+13
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+1
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	+4	+11
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	+4	+4
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	+4	+3
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0	+5
22905	K Brown	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+4
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	+3	+12
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
23006	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	+4	+17

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	-2	+9
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	-4	+14
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+20
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+20
30204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.00	+1	+10
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+16
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+22
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+9
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+5
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-1	+1
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	-1	+11
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1	+8
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	+1	+1
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1	-4
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+14
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+6
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+10
30607	J Kjeldbjerg	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
30701	L Daish	Coventry City	2.00	-1	+1
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	0
30801	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	-1	-2
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+2
30809	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	0	+7
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	0
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+6
31001	M Millar	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-4
31002	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-7
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-2	+11
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-2	+3
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	+1	+9
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+8
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	-1	+12
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+4	+11
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-5
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-4
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+11
31502	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+4
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+6
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	-2	+9
31603	P Kamark	Leicester City	0.50	0	0
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	-2	+3
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+10
31702	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	0	0
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+11
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+7
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+14
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	-1	+2
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+11
31803	R Johnsen	Manchester United	2.50	0	+11
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-7
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-11
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	-1	-3
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+11
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	-1	+7
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	+10
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	-4
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-2
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-2	-3
32302	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	0	-19
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	+4	+28
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	+1	+17
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	+4	+14
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+6
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+13
32503	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-2	-13
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-1	-1
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1	-7
32605	U van Gobbel	Southampton	1.50	-3	-14
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+13
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-1	+10
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0	+12
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+18
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32804	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-3
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+7
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+7
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	-2
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	+4	+4
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0



Rush scored his first goal for Leeds United on Sunday. But was it too late for too many ITF selectors?

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+15
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+7
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+1
40104	I Kiriakov	Aberdeen	2.50	+1	+16
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	+1	+16
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0	+16
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+27
40203	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+9
40204	G Helder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
40208	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+1	+11
40209	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0	0
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+2	+12
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+19
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+13
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
40306	S Curcic	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+14
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+3	+14
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+11
40403	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+10
40404	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+2
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+15
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+3
40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+14
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	0
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+1	+18
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+1	+14
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	+14
40505	P Di Canio	Celtic	3.00	0	+18
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	+3
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+16
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0	+13
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+3
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+23
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+20
41501	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+1	+21
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	+1	+10
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+10
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+11
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+9
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+3	+21
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+1	+12
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	+1	+8
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1	+14
40809	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	+17
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	0	+15
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	+3	+19
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0
42303	J McInally	Dundee United	0.75	0	+4
40904	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	+1	+10
40905	A Benneker	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+16
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+12
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	+2	+15
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+10
41101	A Kanchelskis	Everton	7.00	+1	+24
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+1	+35
41103	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+6
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	+1	+17
41105	A Limpar	Everton	1.50	0	+1
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+6
41107	V Samways	Everton	0.50	0	0
41202	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	0	+4
41203	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	0	+5
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	+1	+13
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	+2	+10
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	+2	+2
41304	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	+2	+13
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+3
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+9
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	-3	+8
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	+1	+3
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+15
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	+2	+9
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0	+13
41805	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	+2	+26
41506	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+14
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	+1	+16
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+3	+17
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+7
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	0	+12
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	0
40606	M Izzet	Leicester City	1.00	+1	+18
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	+23
41702	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0	+16
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	+6
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0	+23
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	0	+20
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+15
41801	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+14
41802	R Keane	Manchester United	4.50	+1	+5
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+26
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+16
41806	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+3
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	+1
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+15
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	0	+13
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	0	+13
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+22
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+5
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+1
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+13
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	+1	+8
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+8
42002	J Philliben	Motherwell	1.00	+1	+5
42003	J Dolan	Motherwell	1.00	-1	+4
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0	+2
42101	D Ginola	Newcastle United	5.50	+1	+14
42102	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	0	+19
42103	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.50	+1	+10
42104	D Batty	Newcastle United	3.00	+1	+14
42105	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+3
42201	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+12
42202	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+2
42203	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+4
42204	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9
42205	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+2	+8
42301	T Rougier	Raith Rovers	2.00	+2	+15
42302	D Lennon	Raith Rovers	1.00	+4	+14
42304	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+2	+14
42401	P Gascoigne	Rangers	7.00	+2	+38
42402	B Laudrup	Rangers	5.00	+4	+27
42403	S McCall	Rangers	2.00	0	+9
42404	T Steven	Rangers	1.50	0	0
42405	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	+17
42501	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+13
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+12
42503	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	0
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+12
42506	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42507	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
42508	S Oakes	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+6
42509	W Collins	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+7
42510	O Trustfull	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+12
42511	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+2	+10
42601	J Magilton	Southampton	2.50	+1	+15
42602	N Heaney	Southampton	1.00	0	+8
42604	B Venison	Southampton	1.00	0	0
42606	D Hughes	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42906	R Slater	Southampton	1.00	0	+8
42607	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50	+1	+14
42608	P Tisdale	Southampton	0.50	0	0
42609	M Robinson	Southampton	0.25	0	0
42610	G Potter	Southampton	0.50	0	+1
42611	E Berkovic	Southampton	1.00	+1	+10
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	-1	+17
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0	+10
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	+1	+4
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	0	+17
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+2
42801	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	0	+9
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+15
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+18
42804	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+2
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+14
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+1
42809	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+17
42901	P Futre	West Ham United	3.50	0	+4
42902	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+13
42903	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+23
42904	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+7
42905	J Moncur	West Ham United	1.50	+2	+11
42907	S Lazaridis	West Ham United	0.25	0	+8
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	+4	+32
43002	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+2	+18
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	+1	+30
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+18
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	+2	+24
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	0	-2

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	+1	+2
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+3
50103	W Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	+1	+13
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	+2	+37
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	0	+16
50203	J Hartson	Arsenal	3.50	0	+8
50205	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+3	+33
50303	T Johnson	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+12
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+7
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+14
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+19
50405	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
50406	N Gudmundsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
50501	P van Hooijdonk	Celtic	7.00	0	+23
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	+1	+13
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+27
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+12
50605	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+3
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	6.00	+1	+15
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	+2	+20
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	3.00	0	+3
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	+1	+1
50801	D Sturridge	Derby County	3.00	+1	+12
50802	M Gabbiadini	Derby County	2.00	0	+5
50803	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	+3	+12
50804	R Willems	Derby County	1.00	0	+7
50902	O Coyle	Dundee United	2.00	0	+4
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+5
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	+1	+10
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+2	+11
51901	N Barmby	Everton	4.00	+1	+19
51102	G Stuart	Everton	3.00	0	+20
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0	+1
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50	0	0
51201	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	+1	+15
51202	C Cameron	Hearts	3.50	+3	+22
51203	D Beckford	Hearts	0.50	0	+4
51301	K Wright	Hibernian	3.00	+1	+9
51302	D Jackson	Hibernian	3.00	+5	+21
51401	P Wright	Kilmarnock	3.00	0	+25
51501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.00	0	0
51502	I Rush	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+12
51504	B Deane	Leeds United	2.00	+2	+9
51601	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	+1	+17
51602	E Heskey	Leicester City	2.00	0	+17
51603	M Robins	Leicester City	0.75	0	+1
51604	I Marshall	Leicester City	0.75	+1	+7
51701	R Fowler	Liverpool	9.00	0	+19
51702	S Collymore	Liverpool	8.00	0	+15
51801	E Cantona	Manchester United	8.50	+1	+18
51802	P Scholes	Manchester United	5.00	0	+4
51803	A Cole	Manchester United	4.50	0	+1
51804	O G Solskjaer	Manchester United	3.00	+2	+17
51902	J A Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	0
51905	F Ravanelli	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1	+37
51906	M Beck	Middlesbrough	2.50	+1	+7
52001	T Coyne	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+15
52002	D Arnott	Motherwell	1.50	0	+17
50401	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.0	+3	+29
52101	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.50	0	+25
52102	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	+1	+7
52103	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+18
52104	P Kitson	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+1
52201	D Saunders	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+2	+19
52202	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+2
52203	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
52204	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+1	+18
52205	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+7
52206	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	0
52207	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	+1
52301	P Duffield	Raith Rovers	2.00	+1	+13
52401	G Durie	Rangers	6.00	0	+3
52402	E Andersen	Rangers	5.00	0	+2
52403	A McCoist	Rangers	5.00	+1	+19
52404	P van Vossen	Rangers	6.00	0	0
52501	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+6
52502	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+1	+23
52503	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	0
52504	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+14
52505	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0
52506	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+5
52601	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	+25
52603	G Watson	Southampton	1.50	0	+6
52604	F Bennett	Southampton	0.25	0	0
52605	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.00	+3	+22
52701	P Stewart	Sunderland	1.00	0	+8
52702	C Russell	Sunderland	1.00	+3	+8
52703	D Kelly	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+6
52704	L Howey	Sunderland	0.50	0	+2
52705	M Bridges	Sunderland	0.50	+4	+6
52708	N Quinn	Sunderland	3.00	0	+7
52801	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	0	+16
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	7.00	0	+18
52803	R Allen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
52901	F Raducioiu	West Ham United	3.00	0	+5
52902	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	2.50	0	+2
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+11
52905	S Jones	West Ham United	1.50	0	+2
53001	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+3
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	3.00	+1	+22
53003	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+3
53004	J Euell	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
53005	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+5
53006	M Harford	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0
53007	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Ov
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	2.50	-1	+17
60202	A Wenger	Arsenal	3.50	+3	+13
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	3.50	+3	+19
60501	T Burns	Celtic	4.00	+1	+24
60601	R Gullit	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+21
60701	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	-1	+3
60801	J Smith	Derby County	0.75	+3	+17
62302	T McLean	Dundee United	0.75	+1	+10
61001	W Paton	Dunfermline	0.50	+1	+13
61101	J Royle	Everton	3.00	-1	+19
61201	J Jefferies	Hearts	2.00	+1	+16
61401	A Totten	Kilmarnock	0.75	-1	0
61502	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00	+3	+6
61601	M O'Neill	Leicester City	0.50	-1	+9
61701	R Evans	Liverpool	4.50	0	+26
61801	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00	+3	+23
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	2.00	-1	+7
62001	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.50	-1	+7
62101	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.50	-1	+25
62201	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+1
62303	I Munro	Raith Rovers	0.50	+3	+4
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	+3	+28
62501	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+17
62601	G Souness	Southampton	0.50	-1	+5
62701	P Reid	Sunderland	0.50	+3	+11
62801	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	+14
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+11
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	+3	+25

NEWS

Driver dies in road rage stabbing

■ A young father has died after a passenger in a car he overtook stabbed him at least 15 times and slashed his throat at the end of a three-mile chase along unlit country lanes.

Lee Harvey, the fifth man to die this year as a result of road rage, was left bleeding from multiple wounds in the middle of the road as his attacker's car drove off. He died in the arms of his fiancée, who was slightly injured ..... Page 1

Sir Nicholas gives up drink

■ Sir Nicholas Scott, the Tory MP, rose at 6am yesterday to reveal in a series of radio and television interviews that he had given up drinking. The information, however, was aimed at wavering supporters in the Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association rather than viewers of BBC breakfast television, and was part of a careful strategy ..... Page 1

Defiant Clarke

Kenneth Clarke set his face against changing the Cabinet's wait-and-see policy on the single currency amid indications that the Prime Minister might attempt to do so ..... Page 1

Bullying prosecution

Lawyers predicted a surge in legal actions over bullying at work after a solicitor's clerk won a landmark prosecution against his former employer ..... Page 1

Bigger lorries

A new generation of 44 tonne "super lorries," the largest ever seen on Britain's highways, could be allowed access to the main road network ..... Page 2

'Perfect murder'

A businessman boasted that his wife's disappearance had been a perfect murder, a court was told. Russell Causley was alleged to have said it was "better than an Agatha Christie murder" . Page 3

Smiths court case

Songwriter Stephen Morrissey treated less well-known members of The Smiths as "mere session musicians as readily replaceable as the parts of a lawnmower", the High Court was told ..... Page 5

Meningitis outbreak

Parents of the two teenage students who died in the meningitis outbreak at Cardiff University spoke of the pointlessness of their deaths ..... Page 6

Freemasons accused

Freemason councillors have been censured by the Local Government Ombudsman in a report that discloses extensive links with the Conservative Party ..... Page 8

Art bequest threat

Sir Denis Mahon threatened to leave his collection of Italian baroque paintings to galleries in their native land if the Government failed to behave "in a civilised way" and meet his strict conditions ..... Page 9

Poor exam actions

Labour said that it would change the law to ensure that children could not sue if they got poor exam results ..... Page 10

Russian military row

A furious battle broke out in the Russian military's top ranks after General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, accused one of his most senior officers of "dishonourable conduct" ..... Page 11

Missing refugees

British troops on short notice to leave for Zaire have been stood down after a reconnaissance aircraft found no evidence of the reported 500,000-700,000 "missing" refugees ..... Page 12

German army's Jews

Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, opened an exhibition which tackles the Jewish contribution to the German and Prussian armies ..... Page 13

Newscasters make the news

■ The BBC television presenter Moira Stuart became the latest celebrity newscaster to join the "great and good". Ian Taylor, the Science Minister, announced she had been appointed to the Human Genetics Advisory Committee. Last year Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, appointed ITN's Trevor McDonald to the Better English Campaign ..... Page 1

Russian designer Valentin Yudashkin acknowledges the applause after his show on the last day of Moscow Fashion Week

Racal Electronic: Shares in Racal Electronic plunged 50p to 225p after a warning on profits brought on by a shortage of radio orders ..... Page 27

Richard Linse, the former chairman and founder of MTM, the speciality chemicals group now known as Meristem, has been convicted of false accounting and lying to investors ..... Page 27

Economy: The pound rose after the Abbey National raised its mortgage rates and business managers reported growth in production and new orders for the sixth consecutive month ..... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE fell 19.7 to 4038.3. Sterling rose to 94.5 after rising from $1.6805 to $1.6850 and DM2.5833 to DM2.5989 ... Page 30

Football: Darren Anderton, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfield player, is not expected to play for four weeks after twisting his left knee ..... Page 52

Cricket: England intend leaving out Jack Russell, their best wicketkeeper, for the first Test match against Zimbabwe in favour of Alec Stewart, allowing them to play five bowlers ..... Page 52

Tennis: Tim Henman opens the Compaq Grand Slam Cup, the richest tournament on the circuit, against Michael Stich, having squeezed into the draw after an exodus of top players ..... Page 49

Athletics: The British federation has signed a new agreement with Channel 4 for coverage of the sport over the next four years ... Page 49

Howard's way: Howard Hodgkin is one of our greatest artists, knighted in 1992, and widely recognised abroad. With his Hayward retrospective, he should get the credit he deserves ..... Page 44

Wartoin ballet: While their countrymen cope with tragedy at home, the Rwandan National Ballet is taking its message of reconciliation on tour ..... Page 45

Unhappy lovers: Covent Garden is staging *Tosca* but fine playing from the orchestra and excellent minor roles cannot compensate for a messy start by the tenor, Keith Olsen ..... Page 45

Absurd theatre: A story of incest and idiocy is in John Wright's production of *You Haven't Embraced Me Yet* ..... Page 46

Lost boy: Valerie Grove talks to Griff Rhys Jones on why he has never really grown up and got a proper job ..... Page 15

Giles Coren attempts to grapple with the 12 dilemmas of Christmas ..... Page 15

Real benefit: Single parents can undergo training as childcare assistants while their children attend nursery school ..... Page 14

Feeling charitable?: Organising fundraising so that people make the best of giving ..... Pages 20, 21

Rough justice: Do foreign courts consider properly the evidence against lorry drivers who appear to be in the drugs trade? ..... Page 35

Is it right?: English Blasphemy law is now in the news. Should Christians have rights denied to other faiths? ..... Page 39

Office style: There is a link between the design of law offices and the service given ..... Page 41

It is up to Russia to compel Lukashenko to pursue a policy of democracy and market reforms. In the final count, the solution to the Belarus problem in a democratic way will be a sort of maturity test of Russian statehood.

— *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Moscow

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
Deborah Harry hits the blue notes with the Jazz Passengers

■ **PROPERTY**
Rachel Kelly on the ultimate metropolitan status symbol: a mansion with an adjoining news

Preview: A 1977 plane hijack still has repercussions on three of those involved. *The Widow, the Terrorist and the SAS* (ITV, 10.40pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a night of noise, colour, and flesh ..... Page 51

All at sea

Britain, a permanent member of the Security Council, insists that it has no preference and is happy to sit the game out hoping that some "viable" African candidate for Secretary-General will be found. This attitude is incompatible with Britain's insistence that it is serious about UN reform ..... Page 17

Cunningham's number

Two structural problems have added greatly to popular anxiety about the Lottery: its operator and its regulation. Camelot is perceived to be making too much ..... Page 17

Now for real gamblers

The Casino du Liban, the flashiest and most spectacular pleasure dome east (or west) of Las Vegas, is back in business ..... Page 17

LIBBY PURVES

My daughter once rounded on me angrily at four years old when some task proved beyond her: "It's your fault, you didn't grow me up properly!" At least as many children are let down by their parents as by schools: emotionally, socially, educationally ..... Page 16

DANIEL JOHNSON

Politicians of all parties can in theory now drink anything and everything — but in practice Islington Man drinks mineral water. John Major may endorse warm beer but he takes care not to be seen quaffing it too often. Keeping sober is more of a political imperative than it was a century ago .. Page 16

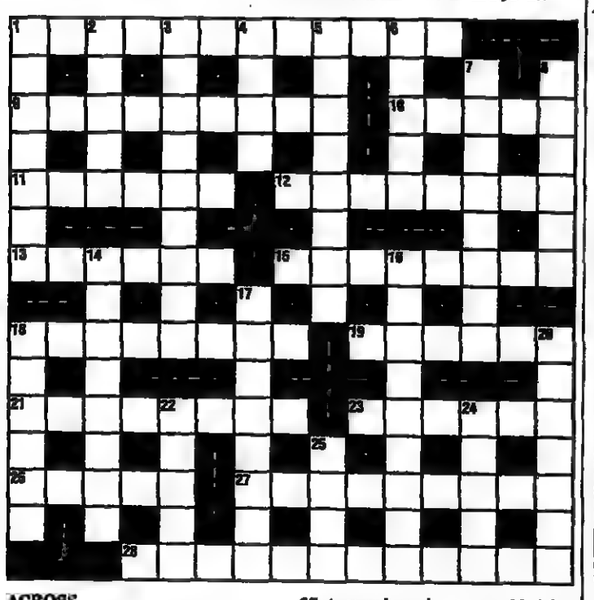
PETER RIDDELL

Hey presto, a gap would open up with Labour which could be depicted as being willing to "sell out the pound" ..... Page 10

Sir Claude Hayes, Crown Agents chairman, 1968-74; Maria Casares, actress; Professor A.A. Harper, physiologist ..... Page 19

Russian aggression and Nato expansion; Budget improvements to the Independent Tribunal Service; the future of St Pancras; ... Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,341



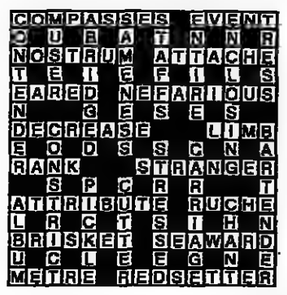
ACROSS

1 One bound to throw off all restraint, in turn (12).
9 Revolutionary tricks recalled by such horses? (9).
10 Scriptures are backed as inspiration for poetry (5).
11 Aim is a high position in church (6).
12 Minor biography at first producing no response (8).
13 Tax remains limited, being worth very little (6).
15 Put on *Othello* back in the exhibition centre (8).
18 Turning out to be suitable (8).
19 Duck, quail, or other bird seen round lake (6).
21 Withdrawn from function in the light of danger (8).
23 Stolen cup and dish (6).
26 Drew line, you said, of a particular colour (5).
27 A crowd on shore assembled for spread (9).
28 Using injection of hard cash, worked together outside home (4-8).

DOWN

1 Weakness, losing head to charm (7).
2 Wherein listener may hear low bird sound (5).
3 It's safe to put on synthetic material (9).
4 Celebrate double coming up (4).
5 Illuminating outcome of burning issue (8).
6 Riddle in the main for the Jumblies (5).
7 New oarsman with current rising showing signs of distress (8).
8 Avoid quick appearance in play with this creature (6).
14 Skilled pilots covering new test in descent (8).
16 Be so elated to start broadcasting career? (4,2,3).
17 Do basic preservative work where butterfly may be found? (8).
18 Capsized sailor reaching bank — but only just (6).
20 Being an impetuous sort, he had to reform (7).
22 Didn't use any horses for the round-up? (5).
24 Place worker in factory (5).
25 Outstanding leader in dance band (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,340



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.47 am — Sun sets: 3.54 pm

Moon sets: 12.33 pm — Moon rises: -

Last quarter today

London 3.54 pm to 7.46 am
Bristol 4.04 pm to 7.58 am
Edinburgh 3.42 pm to 8.25 am
Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.07 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.04 am

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have rain, falling as snow on hills of North Wales and northern England; drifting in places. Brighter weather will extend across south during day. Windy, especially in the south. Slightly colder than normal in the north.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells. Perhaps wintry showers, especially over northern Scotland. Rain will affect parts of N. Ireland and SE Scotland, turning to snow on hills. Breezy in south. Temperatures mostly below average.

☐ **London, SE, SW, Cent S England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales:** Wet and windy. Brighter, drier weather will spread from the west, perhaps with the odd shower. Wind southwest or west, strong to gale. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E, NW, Cent N, NE England, W Midlands, N Wales, Lakes, IoM:** Wet and windy. Snow on hills, affecting lower levels as well later. Wind variable, mainly E, fresh to strong. Rather cold. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** Becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain spreading from south, snow on hills. Wind mainly easterly, light becoming fresh to strong. Rather cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Gl'gow:** Rather cloudy but mainly dry. Perhaps brighter later. Wind variable, becoming fresh to strong northeasterly. Rather cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** Bright or sunny spells but also some wintry showers. Wind mainly westerly, moderate to fresh, becoming variable. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** Rain at first, some snow on hills. Brighter later, showers. Wind E becoming N, mainly fresh. Max 6C (43F).

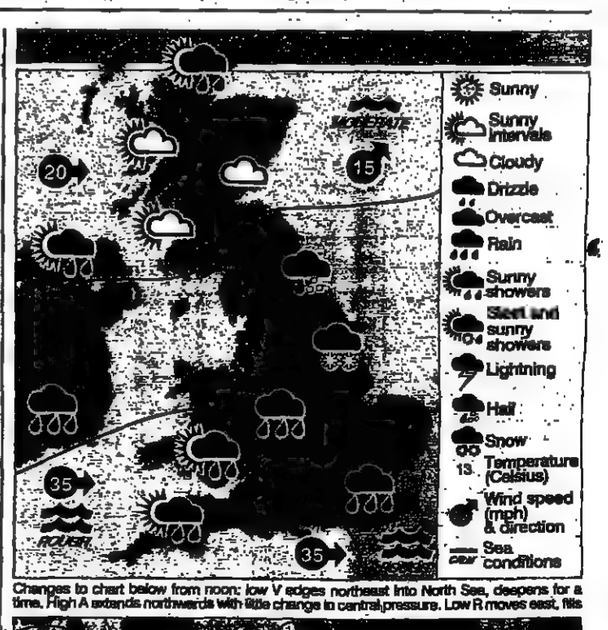
☐ **Outlook:** Showers in the south, rain or snow in the north. Rather cold.

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; su=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.9	0.01	5	46	s
Anglesey	1.8	-	9	48	b
Aspatria	2.5	0.11	7	45	sh
Aviemore	0.3	0.43	5	41	sl
Belfast	1.8	0.15	8	46	sh
Birmingham	4.3	0.01	8	46	b
Bognor R	4.1	-	9	48	s
Bournem'th	3.9	0.01	10	50	s
Bristol	4.5	0.03	10	50	s
Buxton	-	0.19	5	41	du
Cardiff	4.0	0.01	9	48	b
Colwyn Bay	2.0	0.01	8	46	c
Cromer	5.4	0.06	8	46	s
Eastbourne	3.8	0.01	9	48	s
Edinburgh	4.2	0.07	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	3.2	0.39	6	43	sh
Exmouth	5.8	0.01	10	50	s
Falmouth	2.0	-	12	54	b
Folkestone	5.6	-	10	50	s
Guernsey	-	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	4.7	0.01	9	48	s
Hayling I.	4.2	-	10	50	s
Hunstanton	3.6	0.02	7	45	s
Isle of Man	1.8	0.01	8	46	b
Jersey	4.0	0.04	12	54	b
Kinloss	0.7	0.22	7	45	sh
Leeds	2.8	0.01	9	48	sh
Lerwick	-	0.07	6	43	c
Leuchars	6.2	-	7	45	s
Lilleshall	2.4	0.02	10	50	s
London	4.0	0.01	10	50	s
Lowestoft	5.2	0.01	8	46	s
Manchester	2.0	0.04	8	46	sh
Margate	5.9	0.01	9	48	s
Mayhead	3.6	0.08	10	50	sh
Morecambe	1.8	0.02	8	46	sh
Newcastle	5.6	0.01	7	45	s
Newquay	1.8	-	11	52	c
Norwich	5.0	0.01	9	48	s
Oxford	5.0	0.02	9	48	s
Penzance	X	-	11	52	c
Prestatyn	X	0.02	8	46	sh
Ross-o-wye	2.5	-	10	50	s
Sandown	4.3	-	10	50	s
Scarbn Snd	0.2	-	11	52	c
Scarboro'	5.8	0.01	8	46	s
Sherkin	3.8	-	10	50	s
Shrewsbury	2.6	0.02	8	46	s
Skegness	4.5	0.02	9	48	c
Southport	1.3	-	8	46	b
Southsea	3.5	-	10	50	s
Stornoway	0.2	0.53	8	46	R
Swanage	5.3	-	11	52	s
Teignmouth	5.6	0.01	11	52	s
Tenby	0.2	0.02	9	48	sh
Tiree	2.4	0.11	8	46	sh
Torquay	5.5	0.01	12	54	s
Ventnor	4.7	-	10	50	s
Walsh'mare	4.1	-	10	50	s
Weymouth	4.1	0.01	11	52	b

	C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	s
Akrotiri	21	70	f
Alex'dria	21	70	s
Algiers	17	63	f
Amst'dam	8	43	f
Athens	16	61	r
B Aires	22	72	s
Bahrain	23	73	s
Bangkok	30	86	f
Barbados	27	81	f
Barcelona	17	63	f
Beirut	25	77	f
Belgrade	2	36	r
Berlin	3	37	d
Bermuda	16	61	f
Biarritz	11	52	c
Borde'x	11	52	d
Brisbane	6	43	s
Budapest	3	37	s
Cairo	22	72	s
Cape Tn	20	68	s
Ch'church	25	77	X
Chicago	-1	30	sn
Cologne	5	41	f
Corfu	12	54	r
C'phagn	3	37	c
Dublin	10	50	c
Dubrovnik	X	-	-
Faro	21	70	s
Florence	12	54	s
Frankfurt	5	41	f
Funchal	18	64	f
Geneva	5	41	s
Gibraltar	20	68	s
Helsinki	1	34	c
Hong K	21	70	s
Innsbruck	1	34	sn
Istanbul	16	61	f
Jeddah	30	86	s
Jo'burg	24	75	f
L Angeles	8	46	s
L Palmas	22	72	f
Le Tquet	7	45	f
Lisbon	16	61	s
Locarno	11	52	s
Lxmbrg	2	36	f
Luxor	27	81	s
Madrid	14	57	s
Majorca	17	63	s
Malaga	23	73	s
Malta	16	61	f
Melb'rne	15	59	c
Mexico C	X	-	-
Miami	22	72	s
Milan	14	57	s
Montreal	4	39	f
Moscow	2	36	f
Munich	1	34	c
N Delhi	30	86	s
N York	11	52	f
Nairobi	24	75	s
Naples	9	48	d
Nice	15	59	s
Oslo	-5	23	sn
Paris	8	46	f
Peking	2	36	s
Perth	22	72	f
Prague	3	37	c
Reykjavik	4	39	f
Rhodes	18	64	f
Rio de J	26	79	f
Riyadh	21	70	s
Rome	9	48	f
S Frisco	12	54	f
S Paulo	X	-	-
Salzburg	1	34	c
Santiago	13	55	s
Seoul	-5	23	s
Sing'pore	33	91	f
Stkholm	X	-	-
Strasb'rg	6	43	f
Sydney	27	81	s
Tangier	18	64	f
Tel Aviv	24	75	s
Tenerife	24	75	s
Tokyo	10	50	s
Toronto	6	43	s
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	21	70	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	f
Venice	11	52	s
Vienna	5	41	s
Warsaw	0	32	c
Wash'ton	6	43	f
Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Zurich	4	39	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low V edges northeast into North Sea, deepens for a time. High A extends northwards with little change in central pressure. Low R moves east, fills

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:17	6.0	7:01	6.0	Leith	7:47	4.5	8:05	4.5
Aberdeen	6:43	3.6	7:01	3.6	Liverpool	4:05	7.3	4:27	7.6
Avonmouth	11:46	10.1	-	-	Lowestoft	2:10	2.3	3:41	2.1
Belfast	4:25	2.9	4:42	3.2	Margate	4:39	4.1	5:31	3.9
Cardiff	11:25	9.7	11:54	9.2	Milford Haven	11:21	5.6	11:59	5.2
Devonport	10:27	4.8	11:08	4.3	Newquay	10:38	5.1	11:10	5.0
Dover	4:02	5.6	4:45	5.3	Oban	10:41	3.2	11:46	3.0
Dublin (N Wall)	3:12	3.3	3:27	3.5	Penzance	9:53	4.6	10:35	4.3
Falmouth	10:37	4.1	11:16	3.8	Portland	10:37	1.5	11:47	1.3
Greenock	3:45	3.0	3:41	3.3	Portsmouth	4:16	4.1	4:28	3.9
Harwich	4:30	3.3	5:02	3.4	Shoreham	4:06	5.0	4:28	4.8
Holyhead	3:29	4.5	3:49	4.8	Southampton	3:46	4.0	4:00	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	11:18	6.8	11:18	8.0	Swansea	11:26	7.5	-	-
Ilfracombe	11:06	7.2	11:40	6.9	Tees	9:07	4.2	9:22	4.4
King's Lynn	11:26	4.7	7:08	1.9	Walton-on-Naze	4:12	3.8	4:53	3.5

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Shoeburyness, Cambris, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Altnaharra, Highland, 1.06in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland, 6.2hr.

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هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 1996

Exporters squeezed as pound hits 3-year high

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

STERLING jumped to its highest level against the mark for nearly three years even as the first evidence emerged that British manufacturers are beginning to suffer from the pound's strength.

The pound gained more than 1½ pfennigs to hit a high of DM2.6002, its best level since February 1994. It also appreciated about half a cent against the dollar, nearly reaching peak levels last seen in October 1992 just after sterling was forced to leave the European exchange-rate mechanism. On its effective index against a basket of currencies, the pound closed sharply higher at 94.5 from 94.0 on Friday. Reports that the pound is starting to affect exports negatively — but also exert a useful downward pressure on prices — came from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, which released its latest purchasing managers' survey.

Overall, the survey showed manufacturing industry expanding for the sixth month running, but recovery remains slow. Output grew in November, but the rate of growth was down slightly. The Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 54.4 from 54.5 in October.

Orders accelerated, driven by stronger demand for consumer goods and components. Export orders continued to grow, but the institute said sterling's was reported to have reduced some sales.

The institute said: "The survey found evidence that the recent rise of sterling has had an impact on new orders from overseas. However, any fall in overseas demand was easily outweighed by the healthy state of orders from domestic markets, with consumer goods firms still very much at the forefront of growth."

Anatole Kaletsky 16
Softly, softly 31

Encouragingly, the pound affected prices paid for raw materials. Prices, which had shown signs of picking up between August and October, fell again in November. "The recent increase in deflationary pressures was almost entirely a result of the stronger pound making imported inputs cheaper in sterling terms," the institute said.

At the margin, yesterday's survey may help the Chancellor to fend off any Bank of England demands for higher base rates at the next monetary meeting on December 11. However, the Bank was also given ammunition with yesterday's news of rapid growth in M0 narrow money supply in November.

The Bank said M0 grew by a seasonally adjusted 7.5 per cent in November which equals this year's peak growth rates in June and August and is the highest since December 1988. Although the relationship between M0 and retail sales has not been close in recent years, it will still be taken as a warning of a pick-up in consumer spending.

Sterling's strength was not the only highlight in the foreign exchanges. The dollar jumped to six-week highs against the mark, profiting from a strong American purchasing managers' survey as well as comments by Otmar Issing, Bundesbank chief economist. He said investors may well switch to dollar assets at the onset of European monetary union. Both the dollar and sterling have profited from weakness in the mark and other currencies expected to join a single currency. The dollar ended in Europe at about DM1.5437 compared with DM1.5320 late on Friday.

Racal shares in £150m slide after warning

By Eric Reguly

A PROFITS warning from Racal, the defence electronics and communications group, yesterday triggered one of the biggest single-day declines of a top Stock Exchange company.

The shares fell by 18 per cent, wiping almost £150 million off Racal's market value, and City analysts gave a warning that the worst may not be over.

The shares broke through their year low of 252p to close at 225p, down 50p, after Racal said that its radio division, one of its largest businesses, would report operating losses in the second half of the year. The downturn, it said, would slice £20 million from the company's pre-tax profits for the full year.

The warning came five months after David Elsbury, chief executive, and Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman, assured the City that pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 would exceed last year's £70.4 million return.

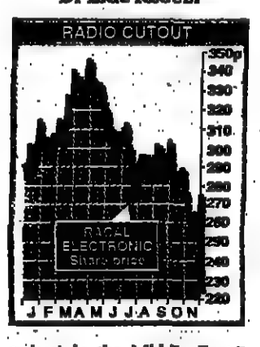
James Heal, an analyst at Hoare Govett, now expects pre-tax profits of £45.5 million, including exceptional charges, in 1996-97, against his previous forecast of £65.5 million.

Although sales in the radio division, which makes military communications equipment such as combat radios, have been on the wane, Racal said that it did not realise the full scope of the downturn until a board meeting held last Friday. As a result, it decided to release its interim results today instead of on Thursday. Mr Elsbury said that it was "not logistically possible" to release them yesterday.

Racal said that it expects to report interim pre-tax profits of £21 million, including exceptional charges, against £30.1 million in the same period a year ago.

The radio division is suffering because more competitors are chasing fewer contracts. It relies almost entirely on defence forces around the world for orders. Three expected orders — from Latin America, the Middle East and Britain — have failed to come through.

Mike Styles, an analyst of Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: "They've been fighting against the French and Americans (for orders) in the Middle East." The division's costs, meanwhile, have climbed because of the British Government's decision to delay the "Bowman" contract until 1999. Racal leads one of the two consortiums vying for the £2 billion contract to supply the Army with digital battlefield communication systems, and said that development work to support the bid is about £100 million and climbing.



Mr Elsbury said that the radio division is undergoing a strategic review, which may result in its restructuring next year. He said: "We're looking at all options, including joint ventures and mergers."

Selling the division has not been ruled out, he added.

The problems in the radio division cap several months of bad news. In June, Racal announced that it would take an exceptional £20 million charge to restructure its ailing data products business, which manufactures modems and other types of communications and access equipment.

A cost-reduction programme was put in place and two factories — one in Britain, the other in Italy — were closed. Racal said that a turnround is now in place, with the data products business expected to generate "modest" profits in the second half.

In the autumn, British Telecom emerged as the winner to replace the British Armed Forces' telecoms system. Racal, the only other bidder, had expected to win the £1 billion contract. As the company's misfortunes increased, City brokerage firms downgraded their earnings forecasts.

Mr Heal, of Hoare Govett, thought the shares at 225p are not low enough to reflect the uncertainties that Racal faces. "I'm still cautious at this level," he said. Some analyst think that the shares could fall further, to 200p, before a recovery takes place.

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Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal chairman, warned of operating losses in its radio division

Gerald Ratner back on the treadmill

By Jon Ashworth

GERALD RATNER, who revolutionised the British jewellery trade, is opening a fitness centre in Henley-on-Thames — his most visible venture since an ill-fated remark four years ago prompted a change of career.

Mr Ratner, 47, has teamed up with Tony Colborne, a Henley businessman, to launch The Workshop, the first in a possible string of fitness clubs. It is due to open next Easter, luring local high-rollers with virtual reality bicycles, and other futuristic treats. Membership costs £50 a month, with a £200 joining fee.

Where other businessmen dream up winning ideas in the bath, Mr Ratner has gone one better. With time on his hands after leaving Ratners, he started going to the gym, and liked exercising so much that he decided to make a career of it. "I feel much better for it," he said, speaking from his home at Bray, along the river from Henley. "I have an enormous amount of energy, and feel in a good frame of mind." He works out three times a week, using a personal trainer.

Mr Ratner felt that Henley was lacking in gyms, and set about tailor-making his own venue. Work has started on a 15,000 sq ft site, half a mile from Henley's high street, and 15 minutes from his own door. Mr Ratner and his partner have invested "a few million pounds" in the venture.

Patrons will enjoy the use of virtual reality cycling machines, which will create the impression of racing against other cyclists. Less competitive sorts will be able to cycle off "down the street" — much more interesting than staring at a blank wall. Considerable sums are being invested in multi-media televisions.

Mr Ratner intends to cut a visible figure at The Workshop. He said: "It will allow me to mix business with pleasure, and chat to people, and make sure everything is running smoothly." Leaving Ratners was perhaps a blessing. "I don't want to get back to working seven days a week. I'm not in so much of a hurry these days."

Working out has clearly done wonders for Mr Ratner, who has avoided the limelight since leaving Ratners, now Signet, in November 1992. Fitness aside, he is advising on the factory-style shopping outlet at Tobacco Dock in east London and has applied for permission to open a multiplex cinema at the site.

In a return to the territory he knows best, he has also signed up as a consultant to a nationwide jewellery chain — in France. He will pick his words with care.

Ratner: enormous energy

Lines found guilty of lying to investors

By Jon Ashworth

THE former chairman and founder of MTM, the specialty chemicals group now known as Meristem, has been convicted of false accounting and lying to investors, at the conclusion of a five-month trial. Richard Lines, 60, was found guilty on three counts at the Old Bailey. His former finance director, Thomas Baxter, 45, was convicted on two counts, but acquitted on a third.

Sentencing is expected before Christmas. The case, brought by the Serious Fraud Office in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Police fraud squad, was triggered by a collapse in the MTM share price in March 1992. Investors, including pension funds and City institutions, suffered losses of £250 million.

Lines was convicted on two counts of false accounting, and one count of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. Baxter was convicted on one count of false accounting, and one count of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. He was acquitted on a further count of false accounting.

The jury had been told that Lines and Baxter "cooked the books" of MTM to make it appear more profitable than it was. Lines profited handsomely, selling shares worth £3 million in 1991, and using some of the money to buy a farm worth £1.8 million in North Yorkshire. He also owns a home in Cleveland which has a swimming pool and stables.

Lines was accused of making a series of false announcements about MTM's profitability, taking advantage of the buoyant share price to sell shares, and to fund the acquisition, in 1990, of Hardwicke Chemicals. He was described by the prosecution as a "forceful" man who had "a clear and determined view of the direction in which he wanted to steer the business". He founded MTM after 11 years with ICI, and previously spent 15 years in the Royal Navy.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman of ICI, appeared as a character witness at his trial. Matters came to a head after BDO Binder Hamlyn, the company's auditor, refused to sign off the accounts. Lines and Baxter were charged in December 1994.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4038.5	(-19.5)
Yield	3.93%	
FTSE All share	1976.89	(-8.28)
Nikkei	20674.69	(-345.67)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6486.30	(-35.40)*
S&P Composite	752.98	(-4.04)*

US RATES

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	101[27/32]*	(101[23/32])
Yield	6.38%*	(6.37%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[11/16]%	(6[11/16]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	112	(111[27/32])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6837*	(1.6823)
London:		
$	1.6847	(1.6803)
DM	2.5984	(2.5828)
FFr	8.6177	(8.7756)
SFr	2.2131	(2.1883)
Yen	191.88	(191.21)
£ Index	94.5	(94.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5436*	(1.5378)
FFr	5.2350*	(5.2230)
SFr	1.3149*	(1.3030)
Yen	113.78*	(113.87)
$ Index	97.6	(97.5)

Tokyo close Yen 113.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $22.30 ($22.15)

GOLD

London close $371.05 ($371.50)

* denotes midday trading price

Halifax resisting Abbey's rate rise

By Caroline Merrell

THE HALIFAX, Britain's biggest building society, is resisting pressure to follow Abbey National and lift its loan rate.

It is holding rates at 6.99 per cent, in spite of the move yesterday by its biggest rival to lift loan rates by a quarter percentage point. The Coventry and the Northern Rock also announced increases, bringing to five the lenders that have put up rates in response to the base rate rise six weeks ago. Then, many lenders said that they would not lift rates for fear of damaging the housing market recovery. Most now say they are reviewing their rates.

Many societies expect the Government to increase base rates by another quarter point next week after it meets the Bank of England.

Abbey National's rise means that its 1.6 million borrowers with mortgages of up to £60,000 will pay 7.29 per cent. Those with loans exceeding £60,000 will pay 7.24 per cent. Repayments on a £50,000 loan will now be £339 a month — up £7.

Abbey said that it has raised its rates to offer its 12 million savers better deals. It plans to lift savings rates by up to a quarter point this week.

The Northern Rock raised rates for new borrowers by a half point, to 7.49 per cent. The Coventry lifted its rate to 7.25 per cent, from 6.99 per cent.

The Halifax House Price Index today indicates prices up 0.5 per cent last month, after October's 1.7 per cent rise, to put annual house price inflation at 7 per cent.

Top firms elect fewer women directors

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

FEWER women are being elected to the boards of Britain's biggest companies, even in businesses overtly favourable to women, the leading organisation for women in business has acknowledged.

The fall is a blow to leaders of the Opportunity 2000, Business in the Community campaign, which yesterday marked the fifth anniversary of its launch by the Prime Minister.

Campaign leaders acknowledged that even in organisations that are members of the Opportunity 2000 initiative the proportion of women directors fell in 1996, from 16 per cent to 11 per cent. But they said this followed a doubling of the level in the 12 months to October 1995. The representation of women on company boards generally remained steady at about 3.3 per cent, research published yesterday by Opportunity 2000 showed. The proportion of women in management overall was also stable, with 31 per cent of managers in Opportunity 2000 organisations now women, against about 12 per cent in management generally.

Confirming a new push to take the campaign for greater employment opportunities for women in business into the small firms sector, the campaign's leaders said that 80 per cent of the UK's top businesses were now Opportunity 2000 members. Increasingly, companies viewed their involvement as a "bottom-line issue" that produced direct financial benefits for the company, and social and employment benefits for the men and women within it, they added.

Campaign leaders said that economic and employment demographics, including women making up 65 per cent of new employees by 2000, meant that women of working age had become the most dynamic component of the European job market.

Lady Howe of Aberavon, the campaign's chairman, said that Opportunity 2000 was increasingly being seen by employers and employees as a British success story. But she argued against complacency.

☐ Columbia Pictures, the Hollywood film studio, has appointed Amy Pascal, a 38-year-old Hollywood veteran, as its new president. The appointment is the latest move by Sony, its owner, to clear up the management turmoil in its US entertainment arm. Ms Pascal is moving from Turner Pictures, where her job as president ceased to exist after the merger between Turner and Time Warner. She worked at Columbia for several years before going to Turner.

ALAN WELLER

Lady Howe, left, chairman of Opportunity 2000, and Liz Bargh, director, publicising the campaign yesterday

Offer relents to phase in power switch

THE electricity industry regulator has bowed to pressure from electricity companies by agreeing to phase in competition for the household supply of electricity from April 1998 (Eric Reguly).

Professor Stephen Littlechild had suggested the industry was dragging its heels. The regional electricity companies said it would be difficult to enable all the country's 20 million households to choose their supplier by next April. Under Offer's new proposals, competition will begin on the same date but will be limited to an equivalent 10 per cent of total households. The second phase, covering an additional 3½ million customers, will begin two months later, while the third will begin at the end of July.

Civil servants' leaders vote for MSF merger

By Our Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S main white-collar trade union for private-sector employees looks set to expand extensively into the public sector after leaders of the professional civil servants' union voted for a merger.

The move could be one of the most significant trade union mergers in recent years. It could run into considerable opposition from the membership of the civil servants' union, from other unions in the Civil Service and from the Government.

Leaders of the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists, which represents more than 70,000 professional staff in the Civil Service and privatised concerns, decided at the weekend to seek a full merger with the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, which represents more than half a million general technical staff.

After failing to draw together a range of smaller white-collar unions into a full federation, the IPMS had been examining merger proposals from a number of unions. At a special meeting of the union's executive in Eastbourne, the leadership voted 15-5 for MSF, and against merging with the PTC civil servants' union. Five others voted for the status quo.

Some activists in the non-political IPMS will oppose a merger with the MSF, which has roots in hard-left union activism, though the union has, in recent years, taken a much more mainstream line under Roger Lyons, its general secretary. Any merger would have to be approved by a ballot of IPMS members.

Other unions organising in the Civil Service — especially the middle-ranking PTC — will be unhappy about the proposed merger, which may well prompt membership poaching by other unions.

Government bargaining units with which the IPMS negotiates — including defence establishments — may also be uneasy about the move, although IPMS leaders believe that a possible change of government at the election is likely to preclude significant changes in union recognition arrangements if the MSF moves into the Civil Service.

MSF leaders will welcome the IPMS executive's vote. They believe merger would give them a platform in key areas of the public sector, and boost the organisation of the MSF, which has recently emerged from financial difficulties.

Investors back Emap expulsion of directors

By Oliver August and Frank le Duc

EMAP shareholders have voted two rebel non-executive directors off the board by a 9-1 majority after months of dispute over changes in the articles of association.

Sir John Hoskyns, chairman, said that he could no longer work with Joe Cooke and Ken Simmonds because the mutual trust between them had broken down since the annual meeting in July, when the two directors voted against a rule change that allows the board to remove directors by a 75 per cent majority vote.

Sir John told a special meeting that there were no immediate plans to replace Mr Cooke and Mr Simmonds, but people would be interviewed with a view to replacing other non-executive directors due to stand down next year.

Several institutional investors that backed the removal are understood to have done so on condition that Mr Cooke and Mr Simmonds be replaced. Sir John said he would prefer non-executive directors to be reduced by two permanently.

Sir John had assured shareholders in July that the new rules were not being introduced to remove the rebels, but, after further clashes, the board excluded the rebels and then moved to expel them.

Mr Cooke, who called for Sir John's resignation, suggested that the changes had been instigated by Robin Miller, chief executive.

Sears in Freemans bid talks

By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS, the retailing group, confirmed yesterday that it is in talks with a number of companies interested in acquiring its Freemans mail order business.

Liam Strong, Sears' chief executive, is understood to be in preliminary discussions with at least four potential buyers. They are: Littlewoods, the privately-owned pools and retailing company; Great Universal Stores, Britain's largest mail order company; N Brown, the smaller mail order specialist; and Otto Versand, the private German mail order giant and owner of Grattan. Freemans is expected to fetch £350-£400 million.

Sears, which also operates Selfridges, British Shoe and the Wallis and Warehouse fashion chains, said talks could end in "the divestment of the business or collaboration with a third party." The sale of Freemans, rather than the establishment of a joint venture, is considered the most likely.

GUS could meet regulatory problems if it tries to take over Freemans, because of its 30 per cent share of the UK mail order market. It would have to argue that regulators should concentrate on its relatively minor share of the UK retail market.

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.99
Austria Sch	19.20	17.70
Belgium Fr	56.29	51.99
Canada $	2.375	2.215
Cyprus Cyp£	0.815	0.760
Denmark Kr	10.49	9.69
Finland Mkk	8.33	7.68
France Fr	9.18	8.63
Germany Dm	2.74	2.53
Greece Dr	424	399
Hong Kong $	13.63	12.63
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.77	5.12
Italy Lira	3993	3506
Japan Yen	205.50	189.50
Malta	0.644	0.589
Netherlds Gld	3.054	2.804
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.35	10.55
Portugal Esc	272.00	253.50
S Africa Rd	8.32	7.52
Spain Pta	225.50	212.50
Sweden Kr	11.93	11.18
Switzerland Fr	2.33	2.15
Turkey Lira	179400	167400
USA $	1.779	1.649

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS BOUNDUP

MAM sells Swiss bank for £113m

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT, the UK's biggest independent fund manager, has sold Mercury Bank, its Swiss private banking subsidiary, for about £113 million. The sale, to the Swiss private banking arm of Safra Holdings, the US company, is in keeping with Mercury's strategy of concentrating on its core business of fund management.

Hugh Stevenson, MAM chairman, said: "We are delighted with the terms of the transaction. Throughout the sale discussions, we have been anxious to ensure the best interests of Mercury Bank's clients are safeguarded." The company said it did not plan any further disposals immediately. Mercury Asset Managemnt will spend the proceeds of the sale on buying fixed interest securities. Mercury Bank contributed £8.9 million of the total £140.4 million profits made by MAM for the year ending March 31, 1996.

Celsis pioneers test

CELSIS INTERNATIONAL, the microbial diagnostics company, has launched a rapid-detection test for the E. coli 0157 bacterium, which was responsible for the food-poisoning outbreak in Lanarkshire. The outbreak has so far claimed five lives and more than 50 victims are in hospital across Central Scotland. The test uses a dip-stick and works as simply as a home-pregnancy test, Celsis said, and will confirm the presence of E. coli within minutes as opposed to the hours or even days required by some other techniques.

Young buys Madison

H YOUNG, the marketing and distribution group, has agreed to buy Madison, the bicycle parts distributor, for £6.86 million in cash and shares. The company, which last made an acquisition two years ago, is funding the deal with a £5.78 million placing and open offer, and the rest through borrowings. In the year to September 30, Young's pre-tax profits were £2.62 million (£2.01 million) with earnings of 11.6p a share (8.6p). A final dividend of 2.9p makes a total of 4.2p (3.9p) and is due January 31.

BTP warning on pound

BTP, the speciality chemicals company, gave warning yesterday that the strength of sterling could wipe up to £2 million from its profits by the end of the year. But Stephen Harnam, chief executive, said the loss would be on paper. BTP, which earns 70 per cent of its profits from overseas, returned pre-tax profits 13 per cent ahead, at £23.7 million, for the six months to September 30. Earnings were 9.91p (9.07p); an interim dividend of 4.05p (3.85p) is due on February 10. The shares fell 7p yesterday, to 305½p.

Kenwood bid backing

THE UK Active Value Fund, holder of a 9 per cent stake in Kenwood, stepped up its pressure on the household appliance company's management yesterday, urging its board to give proper consideration to a reported informal bid approach by Pifco, a fellow manufacturer of domestic appliances. Kenwood shares rose 13p to 233½p yesterday. The company is due to report half-year results today. Kenwood is currently capitalised at around £107 million.

Acal interim higher

ACAL, the electronics company, increased pre-tax profits to £4.65 million from £4.45 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 14.2p from 13p and the interim dividend was lifted from 2.75p to 3.16p. John Curry, chairman, said Acal's traditional agency business in electronic components, systems and industrial controls saw sales and profit growth in the first half. The PC parts unit performed unsatisfactorily, but problems had now been resolved.

Croda profits ahead

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals company, said provisional figures for the third quarter showed a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits on sales that were 9 per cent higher. It said demand levels and new products gave the company optimism but sterling's strength could threaten export margins. Michael Valentine, chairman, said improving demand and new products gave grounds for optimism but that if the current rates of exchange of sterling persisted, they would reduce export margins. The shares were unchanged at 336p.

☐ Lenders bet on no immediate rate rise ☐ Buyers circle around Freemans ☐ Order gap clobbers electronics shares

Truths shrouded by Abbey habit

☐ TIME was when, on moving house, you could expect the estate agents to lie through their teeth, your vendor to swindle you and your fellow purchasers to gazump. But at least you could rely on your dull, slow, safe old building society.

No more, it seems. As the building societies become banks, so does their behaviour seem more — well, *bank-like*, and that is not intended as a compliment. Abbey National was painting its quarter-point rise as a bid to help *starving* investors, who in a low-inflation environment have had to put up with lousy returns on their savings. If a few million mortgage-holders have to pay more to correct this, then fair's fair.

Except that the Abbey's rise, and those of the other lenders that followed it, is *more to do* with widening margins and raising profits, because while home owners have to pay an extra quarter point on their mortgages, investors see average rises of 0.11 per cent, on the new rates to be announced on Thursday. The bank keeps the difference.

There is also an unreality about the quoted mortgage rates, because of the proliferation of special packages, low-start mortgages, cash-back offers and other gimmicks used to attract new borrowers. This means that those people moving house, or prepared to move their loans, are being subsidised by those staying put, in their homes or at their existing lenders. So much for loyalty — the lenders now make their profits out of consumer ignorance and inertia.

Still, let us try to be positive. The move by the Abbey and its rivals suggests that the next rise in base rates may be some way off. The Halifax will certainly follow suit after the next meeting between Chancellor and Bank Governor a week tomorrow. The Abbey is assuming that the Chancellor will hold off from a *further* base rate rise; his Budget performance makes this a virtual certainty. Sensible City analysts, those not rushing around waiting for the sky to fall, expect a further quarter point on rates early in the spring, after the next inflation report, the first estimate of this quarter's GDP and some indication how Christmas retail sales went.

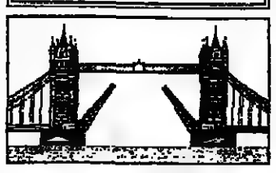
This will not damage the housing market, or threaten any reversal of the price rises so far and the 7 per cent rise for this year that the Halifax is shooting for today. Politically, mortgage rates cannot rise too far before the election, because this would threaten the spring home-selling season and what "feel-good" factor there is around.

Come the election, and interest rates will have to rise. This is not meant as a party-political point, but they will rise fastest under a Labour Government determined to demonstrate its fiscal responsibility by heeding advice from the Bank to raise them. Base rates have not been in double figures since 1992, and it would require a mismanagement of the economy beyond the abilities of the two *main* contenders to push them back there again.

Catalogue of aspirations

☐ WELL-LEAKED reports of the auction for the Freemans mail order business, which could be under new ownership by Christmas, coincide with a study of why anyone should want to be in mail order in the first place, a business with a peculiar inability to shake off a cheap and tatty image despite heavy investment.

PENNINGTON



Home shopping should have been one of the success stories of the 1990s. Those with money work longer hours, while retail innovations such as loyalty cards and proposed moves into banking throw up exactly the kind of consumer data needed by mail order operators to identify the right customers. Such "narrow-casting" is the key to home shopping, so saving on production and posting costs.

As Corporate Intelligence on Retailing, the specialist consultancy, says: "While the 1,000-page agency catalogues are often compared to department stores, there is still no equivalent of Harrods or Harvey Nichols in the mail order world." Mail order sales are being outpaced by other forms of retailing, and the industry has to replace its traditional downmarket consumer base with more prosperous customers.

The consultancy says one way forward is collaboration between high street retailers and mail order companies. If so, then the traffic is currently in the other direction. The most likely purchasers for Freemans, from Liam Strong's troubled Sears, are Littlewoods and Germany's Otto Versand, already involved in downmarket mail order. By contrast, consider the widely-rumoured entry into home shopping by Marks & Spencer, and the potential of a clothing catalogue with the same customer loyalty M&S already enjoys.

Racal's fickle finger . . .

☐ THERE is something distinctly odd, at first glance, about Racal Electronic's profit warning yesterday. On second glance, and all subsequent readings, too.

Or perhaps it is just that fickle blue finger of fate, because Racal is the second of the four owners of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, in less than a fortnight to have shocked the market with a profits warning. De La Rue lost 18 per cent of its value, and Racal saw a matching share collapse after identifying a previously unforeseen hole in the order book.

Let us examine the exact sequence of events. On Friday the Racal board was told, by whom it is not clear, that orders for radio communication gear would be about £30 million lower in the second half than in the corresponding period. Because of the margins the group enjoys, this would leave profits £20 million lower than the City had thought.

That orders shortfall is a huge chunk of the business of a division that turned over £160 million last year. It represents two or three lost contracts. But no one noticed until last Friday. The board then took the almost unprecedented move of putting out a profits warning *three days before* the interim figures. These were brought forward, but only by two days, to this morning. Asked why these could not coincide with yesterday's warning, so allowing the City to ask all the necessary questions, the company could only witter on about "logistics".

The share price says it all. Racal shares are now below where they started the year, after a hefty jump in early summer. The company has since lost out on one big military contract, and another has been deferred. With such a lumpy orders performance, an erratic share price is the least investors can expect.

Judgment of peers

☐ FAMILIARITY evidently breeds contempt for the Keswick family's Jardine Matheson octopus, whose oriental achievements impressed from afar for so long. In 1995, Trafalgar House, *the most prominent* British tentacle, was voted, in *Management Today*, the company least admired by its peers in rival boardrooms. After Trafalgar's rescue takeover by Kvaerner, the 260th and bottom spot inevitably went to Eurotunnel. How could it be otherwise? At 259, however, lurks Kwik Save, the fast-shrinking downmarket retailer that was supposed to be the other British jewel in the Keswicks' crown. Only that same Liam Strong, at Sears, down from 131 to 257, is seriously trying to spare their blushes.

S&N's 26% rise cheers the brewers

By Alasdair Murray

BREWING shares leapt yesterday after Scottish & Newcastle unveiled a sparkling half-year performance.

The company reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax interim profits, to £195 million, well above City expectations. Turnover rose by 24 per cent, to £1.66 billion.

S&N shares rose 11p, to 650p, as analysts upgraded full-year profit forecasts by about £10 million, to £380 million. Other brewers gained from S&N's confident outlook, with Whitbread rising 2½p, to a new high of 769p, and Bass up 3p, to 786½p.

S&N increased profits in its brewing division by 67 per cent, to £90 million, including the first full six months from Courage. The company said that it suffered a small fall in total volumes, but a better mix had improved margins. John Smith's, its main bitter brand, increased sales by 17 per cent. Volumes of Kronenbourg, the premium lager brand, rose 13 per cent.

Profits in the retail division rose 12 per cent, to £75 million, boosted by a 13 per cent rise in food sales. The company — which owns brands such as Rat & Parrot, Barras & Co and Chef & Brewer — added 160 new branded pubs during the period to a managed house estate now totalling 1,900.

Brian Stewart, chief executive, said that S&N was looking to add 150 Chef & Brewers over the next two years to improve food takings further.

Leisure division profits fell 11 per cent, to £45 million. The company blamed £2 million of exceptional costs incurred after restructuring of Center Parc operations combined with negative currency movements. S&N said that trading on the Continent remained slow.

A 7.2p interim payout, up 10 per cent, is due on February 7.

Tempus, page 30

Troubled Wickes set to launch £50m call

WICKES, the builders' merchant whose former senior managers are under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, is expected to launch the prospectus for a £50 million rights issue late next week (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company was earlier expected to try to raise about £30 *million, but has since realised* that it needs more cash to plug the gap left by three years of profit overstatement. The recapitalisation will allow trading in its shares, suspended in June after accounting irregularities were uncovered, to resume in January.

In October, after an investigation by accountants and solicitors, Wickes disclosed that, in the three years to the end of 1995, it had overstated profits by £51 million. It said there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers.

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Abbey rate increase adds to investor nervousness

STOCK MARKET investors now seem resigned to the prospect of another rise in interest rates before too long.

As if to focus their minds, **Abbey National** pushed up its rate to borrowers by an extra quarter-point, providing sterling with an excuse to move ahead against its main rivals but also bringing more headaches for Britain's exporters. Combined with hefty opening losses on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones tumbled almost 50 points in early trading, this gave no incentive to investors.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 19.5 points down at 4,038.5 but selling pressure was minimal, reflected in the low level of turnover generally that saw 553 million shares traded.

The Abbey National's decision to follow the lead of rival Nationwide and push up rates earned it a rise of 12½p at 709p. Behind that were stories of a bid from **Prudential Corporation**, ½p firmer at 488p, still doing the rounds.

The biggest faller among the top 250 shares was **Racal Electronics** after a surprise profits warning. The shares finished 50p down, or almost 18 per cent at 225p, ahead of interim figures on Thursday.

The market had been looking for a half-year pre-tax profits of almost £40 million but Racal said it expected to report £21 million. A dip in radio orders was blamed. A total of 7.35 million shares changed hands.

Sears slipped ½p to 92½p after confirming what the City had suspected for some time — that a "for sale" sign had gone up at its Freemans mail order operation. Prospective buyers include Otto Versand, the German retailer, privatelyowned Littlewoods and **Great Universal Stores**, down 7½p at 678½p ahead of interim figures on Thursday. Freemans is expected to command a price tag of between £350 million and £400 million. That compares with the £477 million Sears paid for the business a few years ago.

Thorn fell 7p to 270p after a downgrading by Morgan Stanley, the US securities house. Meanwhile **Redland** began to regain its composure after last week's sharp fall. The price firmed 3p to 373p as Kleinwort Benson, the broker, told clients the price had fallen too far.

News that bid talks had collapsed left **Berisford**, the Magnet kitchen furniture group, 9p lower at 135p. City speculators are still hoping that another bid will materialise.

Siebe was a nervous market ahead of interim figures today, with the price dropping 9½p at 940p. Brokers have forecast pre-tax profits of £216 million against £166.2 million last time.

Rusi Kathoke, left, and Ian Harvey saw BTG shares fall 75p

Courtaulds slipped 3p to 397p, only 3½p above its low for the year, continuing the slide after the profits warning in July that has undermined the shares. The actuaries meet soon to review the constituents making up the top 100 companies. If Courtaulds loses its position it could lead to a further sell-off.

BTG, the technology transfer company led by Ian Harvey, chief executive, and Rusi Kathoke, finance director, failed to capitalise on a return to the black during the first six months of the year, with the shares falling 75p to £24.37½ as the profit-takers moved in. Pre-tax profits were £170,000 compared with a deficit last time of £2.1 million. The shares are being split on the basis of five-for-one in order to make them more marketable.

H Young Holdings fell 6½p to 125p after announcing plans to raise almost £6 million by way of a placing and open offer of 5.53 million shares at 116p. The funds will be used to finance the acquisition of Madison Holdings, a major importer and distributor of bicycle products. Rory McGrath is chief executive of H Young and says the deal will be earnings enhancing in the first year. Last year profits grew by 30 per cent to £2.6 million.

A bid pitched at below the ruling market price saw the stock market value of AIM-listed **Clubpartners International** almost halved. The shares ended the day 6p down at 7½p after the group revealed it had received a number of bid approaches, all of which valued the group at a discount. This follows the failure of its proposed acquisition of The Drift Golf Club for which a deadline of last Friday had been set.

Scottish & Newcastle jumped 22p to 661p after the group confirmed that the cost saving targets was being met at Courage, its recent acquisition. As better than expected half-year figures revealed, the rest of its brewing operations remain flat and Center Parcs is still finding the going difficult. Brokers are looking for between £370 million and £375 million for the final outcome.

First-time dealing in **Semple Cochrane**, the business services group, got off to a flying start after a placing at 180p. The price opened at 217½p and never looked back before closing at its best of the day at 218½p, a premium of 38½p. Brokers have been talking the stock up to the 250p level in the short term.

Waee edged ½p higher to 78½p having worked itself up from a low of 56½p in recent weeks. The price still stands well below the 279p high for the year, but brokers claim the selling has been overdone.

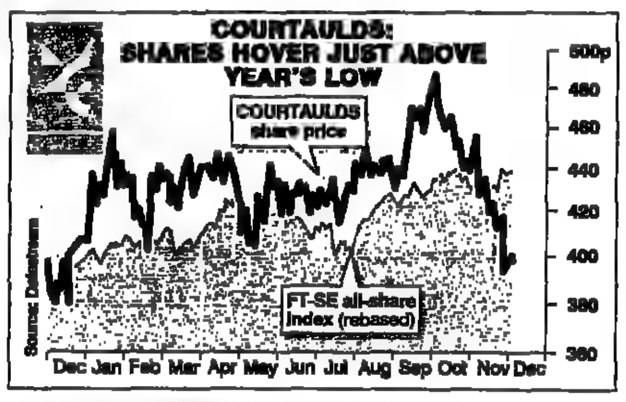
Pifco, the household appliances group, was unmoved at 283p on reports it wants to bid for **Kenwood**, its bigger rival, 13p dearer at 233½p. At these levels Kenwood carries a price tag of more than £100 million while Pifco is less than half that size.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The decline in the purchasing managers' index came as a pleasant surprise, although prices closed below their best levels of the day. The highest gains were seen at the longer end of the market, resulting in a further flattening of the yield curve.

In futures the December series of the long gilt closed five ticks better at £112 as the total number of contracts completed reached 47,000.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £$^{11}/_{32}$ at £105$^{9}/_{32}$, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished three ticks lower at £103$^{7}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street were mostly weaker in morning trading, with retailing and technology sectors the exceptions. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 35.40 points lower at 6,486.30.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6480.30 (-35.40)
S&P Composite	752.98 (-4.04)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20674.69 (-345.67)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	13517.56 (+123.63)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	627.24 (-3.82)

Sydney:

AO	2385.1 (-3.5)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2858.60 (+13.08)

Singapore:

Straits	2193.41 (+5.32)

Brussels:

General	10458.94 (+24.02)

Paris:

CAC-40	2318.63 (+2.97)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	830.40 (-7.40)

London:

FT 30	2806.1 (-20.9)
FT 100	4038.5 (-19.5)
FTSE Mid 250	4414.8 (-13.7)
FTSE 350	2005.2 (-9.0)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1877.55 (+9.85)
FT All-Share	1976.89 (-8.28)
FT Non Financials	2058.68 (-11.53)
FT Fixed Interest	117.38 (+0.23)
FT Govt Secs	95.63 (+0.26)
Bargains	36991
SEAQ Volume	553.8m
USM (Datastrm)	192.82 (-0.59)
US$	1.6850 (+0.0045)
German Mark	2.5989 (+0.0156)
Exchange Index	94.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3322
£:SDR	n/a
RPI	153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Access Plus (90)	102½	...
Advanced Power Cm	84½	+ 6
Beechcroft	4	...
Brands Hatch Leis	188½	- 2
Britt Allcroft	152½	- 4
Car Group	162½	...
Charterhouse	6½	...
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Deep Sea Leis (160)	162½	...
Druid Grp	315½	+ 3
Exeter Inv	97½	...
First Russian Frts C	587½	...
Future Int Tele (115)	126½	...
Geo Interactive (100)	87½	...
Goshawk Insce	116½	+ 1
Grantchester Hldgs	123½	- ½
Kern River	90½	...
Majestic Wines	226½	...
Oliver Ashworth	135	- ½
Provend (125)	127½	+ 2
Recycling Servs	100	...
Scot Highland Htls	138½	...
Second St David Inc	110½	...
Second St David Res	9½	...
Second St David Z Pf	184½	...
Semple Cochrane	218½	...
Snakeboard (3)	3½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Arcadian Intl n/p (45)	1½	...
Bodycote Intl n/p	119½	+ 12
INVESCO n/p (220)	43½	- ½
More Group n/p (600)	28½	+ ½
Regalian Prps n/p (30)	1½	...
Stakis n/p (82)	7½	...
Vision Gp n/p (235)	63½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Seton Health	475½p (+29p)
Kenwood App	233½p (+13p)
WF Elect	500p (+25p)
Prism Rail	476p (+20p)
Scot & New	661p (+22p)

FALLS:

Racal Elect	225p (-50p)
Azlan	570p (-22½p)
Chubb Sec	330p (-13p)
Perity	342½p (-10p)
Smithkline	808p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

In better spirits

AFTER several lean years the brewers are looking forward to Christmas. Kenneth Clarke may have declined to play Santa last week, failing to serve up a cut in excise duty as an early stocking-filler, but the evidence from the current crop of results is that the consumer will be more willing to pay for extra rounds at his local this winter.

Overall, beer volumes remain flat but with the consolidation of the industry just about complete — barring the blocking of the Bass acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley — the breweries are bent on improving their margins. The mix of sales is also better, with the premium end of the market seeing the most rapid growth. Scottish & Newcastle, which unveiled its results yesterday, reported double-digit increases from its premium John Smiths and Kronenbourg brands.

Add to this a transformation of the old tied-estates from local boozers into female-friendly branded pubs. Today, the beerage is in a better position to profit from higher consumer spending, not least because food is beginning to rival beer as a source of income.

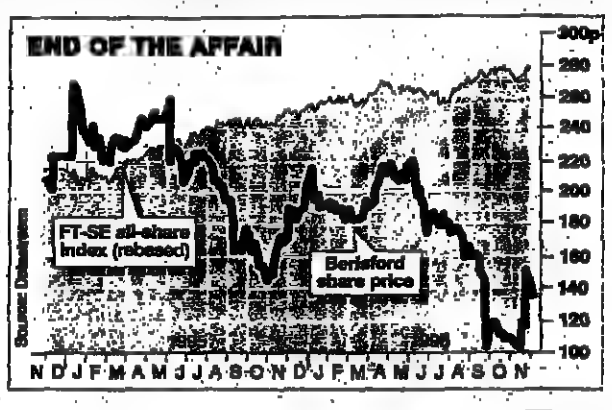
Scottish & Newcastle needed the spending boost more than most in the sector because of its greater reliance on beer and pubs than rival Whitbread, which has become of one of the country's larger restaurateurs, or Bass, which benefits from hotels and gaming. With more customers queuing at the bar and room to expand in food, the outlook for S&N looks good in the short term. But the company has its work cut out if it is to thrive in a leaner environment. Once a sector inured to fashion, the brewing industry is now threatened by it and S&N has not been quickest to respond.

Berisford

BERISFORD's ghostly suitor came and left without leaving a trace. The whole episode leaves the conglomerate looking a bit like Lois Lane, the Daily Planet news reporter who alone has actually met Superman but remains convinced that the shy hero loves her.

Unfortunately, Berisford's hero was equally wary of publicity and we are left feeling a bit mystified as to what caused it to fly away. Nothing Berisford said in its recent interim report could have justified a change of heart. In fact, the news was somewhat upbeat, with indications of sharply improved sales at Magnet and a better performance expected from Welbilt, the US maker of frying equipment for the big burger chains.

Price is usually the cause of break-up in such flirtations. Berisford shares enjoyed a brief surge during the talks but even at their peak never reached a level at which a buyer would give up all thought of a bid. At the current level of 135p, Berisford shares are trading on just over nine times forecast earnings. All is not lost, however. Berisford is expected to launch a buyback of its convertible loan stock within the next day or two and a cancellation of about a third of the issue at a cost of some £70 million should enhance earnings per share. That will leave the shares looking even cheaper — and there is always the thought that Superman might come back.



Greycoat

AT ONE LEVEL the squabbling over Greycoat looks like a storm in a teacup. The Moorfield team want a business to run and buying Greycoat is as good a way as any to build a portfolio. British Land is rumoured to be in the wings as a potential buyer of some surplus Greycoat properties, and the UK Active Value Fund will back any move that might lift the share price out of the doldrums. Meanwhile, the Greycoat team is furious at being portrayed as time-serving rent collectors. They want to carry on with their strategy and, above all, want to keep their jobs.

Looked at more dispassionately, however, the squabble is almost a microcosm of what is wrong with much of the property sector. Property is a dud investment, for the most part. Small, indebted property companies with over-rented or second-rate buildings are incapable of generating decent growth for their shareholders. The problem is as much a structural one as it is a failure of management. In a low-inflation environment with only moderate demand for floorspace, rents are unlikely to grow except in areas of acute undersupply, out-of-town shopping centres for example. The total return for property over the past year, as measured by Investment Property Databank, including both rents and capital value, was 7.5 per cent in the year to October. Hardly the sort of growth to inspire new investment and capital values alone have been falling.

Yet property developers are keen to invest and wonder why pension funds are unenthused. Those that succeed exploit special situations: shopping centres, leisure parks, imaginative deals on sites that are in demand. Moorfield's answer is to slap two companies together and take out some overhead. A merger would save £1.5 million in administrative costs, they say. Yet the analogy could be taken further. Why not dump half of the quoted property sector into one enormous dustbin vehicle, hire a firm of surveyors to collect rents, and have done?

Toy Options

ONLY the brave would take on Hasbro and Mattel at the game of betting on the toy that will fascinate the under-eights this Christmas. Fortunately for Toy Options, it has devised a business that gives it slightly less exposure than the average toy maker. Toy Options makes nothing but acts as worldwide distributor under licence to manufacturers. Its risk is therefore only marketing spend rather than tooling up a factory. Yesterday's deal widens its range beyond toys into other licensed products based on cartoon and movie characters, and should reduce risk further.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	877-867	Mar	993-990
Mar	921-920	May	1001-1000
May	939-937	Jul	1011-1008
Jul	954-952	Sep	1040-1028
Sep	969-968		
Dec	981-980		Volume: 4736

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1338-1337	Sep	1265-1260
Mar	1288-1287	Nov	1270-1260
May	1267-1266	Jan	1300-1295
Jul	1266-1264		Volume: 4110

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	301.3-01.0
Spot: 308.8		Dec	303.0-01.1
Mar	305.3-05.0	Mar	304.5-03.0
May	305.0-04.7	May	307.0-04.0
Aug	306.0-05.3		Volume: 1252

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 29

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	93.10	138.47	111.03
(+/-)	+4.10	+2.61	-1.03
Eng/Wales:	93.10	138.35	110.95
(+/-)	+4.26	+2.17	-1.10
(%)	+3.0	+51.0	+3.0
Scotland:	unq	139.28	112.29
(+/-)		+5.13	-0.30
(%)		+20.0	+9.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.25	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	22.90	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Feb)	22.30	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	n/a	...
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	...	...

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	228 (+2)	230 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	226 (+2)	227 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	120 (+1)	122 (+1)
Naphtha	224 (n/c)	225 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	219.50-19.75	Mar	199.50-99.75
Jan	216.00-16.25	Apr	190.50-91.00
Feb	208.50-08.75		Vol: 10960

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	22.86-22.89	Apr	21.22 BID
Feb	22.27-22.29	May	20.75-20.83
Mar	21.73-21.75		Vol: 17148

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	92.60	Jan	90.80
Mar	94.60	Mar	91.80
May	96.00	May	92.80
Jul	97.50	Sep	91.80
Sep	92.75	Nov	93.80
Volume: 221		Volume: 25	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	54.5
Apr	63.0	64.5
May	unq	69.5
		Volume: 62

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Dec 80.00-80.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 96	1440	1430	1440
Jan 97	1395	1370	1391
Feb 97	1377	1365	1376
Apr 97	1415	1390	1411
Vol: 347 lots		Open Interest: 3802	

Index 1427 +4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2464.0-2465.0	2231.0-2232.0	293925
Lead ($/tonne)	675.50-676.50	686.00-687.00	227625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1045.0-1045.5	1069.0-1069.5	441550
Tin ($/tonne)	6095.0-6100.0	6105.0-6108.0	10880
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1493.0-1494.0	1522.0-1523.0	1563125
Nickel ($/tonne)	6730.0-6735.0	6815.0-6820.0	94968

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom	420	24	35½	41	5½	12	19½
(*433½)	460	6	16½	21½	29½	33	41
ASDA	110	10	12	14½	1	3	4
(*118)	120	4	6½	9	4½	7½	8½
Boots	600	41	55½	64½	3½	10	17½
(*633)	650	11	26	35	23	31	40½
Br Airways	550	43	58½	66	6½	13	19½
(*584½)	600	14	30	38	25	33	42½
BP	650	42	55½	66	8	17½	22½
(*681)	700	14	28½	40	28½	40½	46
Br Steel	160	7½	12½	16	3½	6½	11½
(*162½)	180	1	4	7½	17½	19	24
C & W	460	23	37	46½	8	15½	24
(*472)	500	5½	18½	27½	30½	37½	45
CU	650	27½	38	43	14	32½	37
(*655)	700	9	18	23	47	66	69½
ICI	750	30½	46	54½	11½	30½	36½
(*765)	800	8½	21½	31	37½	60	65½
Land Sec	700	50	64½	71½	1½	6	13
(*744)	750	14½	30½	38½	16	23	34
M & S	500	13	27½	35½	10½	16½	22½
(*501)	550	0½	8	15	49	50	53½
Nat West	650	48	58½	66½	4½	19½	26½
(*688½)	700	16½	30	40	23	45½	52
Safeway plc	360	26½	38	43½	3½	9½	16
(*381)	390	9	23½	26½	16	22	30½
Sainsbury	360	19½	30	34½	4	9	15½
(*373½)	390	4½	14½	19½	19	23½	31
Shell	950	46	63½	71	7	25	31½
(*983)	1000	16½	35½	43	28	48½	56½
Smkl Bch	800	32½	55	71½	24½	39½	46½
(*808)	850	13½	34	49½	53½	68	74
Storehse	300	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	330	0	—	—	0	—	—
Trafalgar	50	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	72½	115½	140	33	70	83
(*1632½)	1700	29	67	92	87½	123½	135½
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	23½	30½	43	10½	25	29½
(*472½)	500	6½	17½	25	32½	49½	53
Vodafone	240	21	29	33½	3	7½	11
(*256½)	260	8½	17½	22½	10½	16	19½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	460	17½	27½	34½	17	23½	28½
(*464½)	500	4½	12½	18	46½	49½	53½
Ladbroke	200	12½	16	19	6½	11	12½
(*204)	220	4	8½	10½	18½	22½	24½
Utd Bisc	200	17½	20½	23	3	8½	10½
(*210)	220	7½	10½	13½	13½	19½	21½

December 2, 1996 Tot: 25409 Call: 9024 Put: 16405 FTSE Call: [illegible] Put: [illegible]

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	33½	45½	53½	2½	8½	13½
(*487½)	500	9	21½	30	17½	25	30
Thames W	550	37	52	60½	4	12½	25½
(*578½)	600	9½	24	33	25	35	51
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	220	23½	26½	29½	3	7½	9½
(*238)	240	10½	14	18½	9½	16½	18½
Br Aero	1100	76	95½	115½	14	28½	36
(*1148)	1150	44	66½	87½	33	49½	58
Br Telecom	360	21½	28½	34	8½	13½	22½
(*377½)	390	6½	14	19	25	29	40
Cadbury	500	26½	35	41	10½	20	34
(*511½)	550	5½	13	19	40½	51	54
Guinness	420	34½	40½	44½	4½	12	15½
(*444½)	460	11	18½	24	22	32½	35½
GEC	360	16	24½	29	10	14½	30½
(*365)	390	4½	11½	16	29½	32½	38½
Hanson	110	8	—	—	4	—	—
(*115)	119	4	—	—	9	—	—
LASMO	200	24½	28	34	4½	6	6½
(*219)	220	14	19	25	11½	13	14
LucasVarity	240	20	25½	29½	6	10½	15
(*250½)	260	9½	15½	19½	15½	20½	25
Pilkington	140	16½	20½	22	1½	3½	5½
(*153)	160	5½	10	12	10½	12½	15½
Prudential	460	40	47½	52½	6½	15	19½
(*488)	500	17	25	31½	23½	35	39
Redland	360	26½	34½	35½	8½	16	19½
(*373)	390	11½	19½	20½	22½	32	36
R-Royce	240	24½	30	34	5	9	11½
(*259½)	260	13	18½	23	13½	17½	20½
Tesco	330	22	29	33	7½	15	18½
(*340)	360	8	14	19	23½	31	34½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(*unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4037½)

	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150
Calls						
Dec	161½	114½	72	38	15½	4
Jan	[illegible]	141½	[illegible]	68½	42	23½
Feb	209½	168	[illegible]	100	73	49
Mar	219½	[illegible]	147	115½	89	65
Jun	271½	—	207	—	152	—
Puts						
Dec	5½	9½	18	36	67	117
Jan	16½	24½	38	56½	83	119½
Feb	30	41½	57	75½	100	130½
Mar	47½	61½	77	96	120	149½
Jun	88	—	123	—	168½	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Dec	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Abby Nat	650	59½	75	81½	0½	15	22
(*707½)	700	18½	40½	51	8½	35	43
Amstrad	140	14½	—	—	1½	—	—
(*153½)	160	2½	—	—	9½	—	—
Barclays	1000	24	54½	70	10½	41	50½
(*1011½)	1050	5	30½	47½	41	70	76
Nad Pwr	400	50	60½	—	0	6	—
(*449)	450	8	27	—	8½	21	—
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	950	41½	63½	78	16	36½	48½
(*969)	1000	17½	38	54	41½	63½	74½
HSBC	1250	60	91	116½	16	52	69
(*1285½)	1300	31	63½	90	37	77	93½
Reuter	700	33	51½	65	12	27½	34½
(*716½)	750	11	27½	41½	38½	54	60½
Royal & Sun	431	22	33	—	7	20½	—
(*443½)	469	5	—	—	28½	—	—
	Series	Dec	Feb	May	Dec	Feb	May
Blue Circ	360	14½	24	32½	2½	7½	16
(*371)	390	1½	9½	16	20	22½	32½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfishr	600	61	71½	78	6	16½	21½
(*647½)	650	28	40	48½	23	37	43
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Unilever	1350	44	76	86½	3	18½	35½
(*1387½)	1400	11½	44	56	22	38½	58½
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Br Gas	200	19½	26	28½	0½	5	9½
(*218½)	220	5	13½	17	6	13	17½
Dixons	550	20½	39½	52½	5½	19	26½
(*564)	600	2	19½	29	37	46½	53½
EMI Group	1350	41	79	114	10½	39½	53
(*1370½)	1400	16	54½	89	34	64	76½
Tarmac	90	2½	7	8½	2	4½	6
(*90)	100	0	3	4½	10	11	13
Hillsdwn	180	4½	11	13	2	6½	12
(*181½)	200	0	3	5	18½	19½	25½
Lonrho	130	4½	8½	11	2	6½	8
(*132)	140	1	4	6½	8½	12½	14
Sears	90	4	—	—	1	—	—
(*92½)	100	0½	—	—	7½	—	—
Thorn EMI	1600	56½	—	—	4	—	—
(*1640½)	1700	6½	—	—	55	—	—
Tomkins	240	8	16	21½	3	10½	12½
(*244)	260	1	7½	12½	16½	22	24
Lloyds TSB	390	31	40	45½	1½	10	14½
(*419½)	420	8	21	29	7½	23	28
Scot Pwr	323	20½	26	—	1	8½	—
(*341)	353	3½	11½	—	13	24	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 66210	Dec 96 Mar 97	4065.0 4080.0	4065.0 4083.0	4039.0 4058.0	4053.0 4073.3	10096 2017
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 3350	Dec 96 Mar 97	4438.0 4485.0	4439.0 4485.0	4420.0 4485.0	4400.0 4480.0	120 80
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 502746	Dec 96 Mar 97 Jun 97	93.56 93.31 93.02	93.57 93.33 93.06	93.54 93.28 92.98	93.56 93.32 93.04	6276 10565 13672
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97 Jun 97	99.46 99.37	99.46 99.37	99.46 99.37	99.47 99.37	20 200
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1111153	Dec 96 Mar 97	96.80 96.86	96.81 96.88	96.78 96.84	96.79 96.86	22839 33380
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 163818	Dec 96 Mar 97	111-26 111-04	112-07 111-17	111-19 110-29	112-00 111-10	49003 26213
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96 Mar 97	126.86 126.38	127.00 126.51	126.85 126.32	126.96 126.47	1809 2930
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 273831	Dec 96 Mar 97	102.61 101.66	102.65 101.78	102.25 101.30	102.47 101.56	193299 69741
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 29789	Dec 96 Mar 97	95.88 95.92	95.88 95.93	95.85 95.90	95.86 95.92	648 607
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 86296	Dec 96 Mar 97	97.95 98.00	97.95 98.00	97.90 97.93	97.90 97.94	3488 7114
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 105995	Dec 96 Mar 97	128.80 127.80	129.21 128.26	128.65 127.80	129.06 128.15	47694 21108

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth: [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	6⅛-6	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6 , close 6¼					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.47	n/a	5.39	5.42	5.58
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	[illegible]	3⅛-3	[illegible]	3⅛-2¾
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $370.00-370.30 Close: $370.80-371.30 High: $372.00-372.50 Low: $370.00-370.50 AM: $370.50 PM: $370.75

Krugerrand: $370.00-372.00 (£219.00-221.00)

Platinum: $373.75 (£221.95) Silver: $4.73 (£2.805) Palladium: $114.50 (£68.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for December 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9109-2.9172	2.9145-2.9172	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	53.470-53.632	53.583-53.632	17-12pr	46-39pr
Copenhagen	9.9290-9.9590	9.9454-9.9546	[illegible]pr	7-6pr
Dublin	1.0001-1.0081	1.0001-1.0019	6-2pr	18-12pr
Frankfurt	2.5946-2.5996	2.5972-2.5996	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	261.61-262.46	261.61-261.85	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	218.44-218.99	218.78-218.99	8-19ds	1-20ds
Milan	2551.1-2561.3	2552.1-2556.1	25-41ds	44-66ds
Montreal	2.2734-2.2799	2.2777-2.2799	0.66-0.60pr	1.32-1.24pr
New York	1.6812-1.6866	1.6842-1.6852	0.975-0.775pr	0.363-0.332pr
Oslo	10.809-10.834	10.821-10.833	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.7950-8.8215	8.8138-8.8215	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	11.287-11.342	11.317-11.337	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	191.31-192.24	191.58-191.79	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	18.251-18.295	18.275-18.293	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.2064-2.2116	2.2117-2.2145	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2210-1.2217
Austria	10.83-10.84
Belgium (Com)	31.71-31.75
Canada	1.3510-1.3520
Denmark	5.8957-5.8977
France	5.2228-5.2238
Germany	1.5394-1.5399
Hong Kong	7.7318-7.7322
Ireland	1.6810-1.6830
Italy	1513.40-1514.90
Japan	113.68-113.78
Malaysia	2.5255-2.5265
Netherlands	1.7274-1.7284
Norway	6.4170-6.4190
Portugal	155.33-155.38
Singapore	1.4014-1.4019
Spain	129.65-129.70
Sweden	6.7026-6.7101
Switzerland	1.3085-1.3095

Argentina peso	1.6832-1.6859
Australia dollar	2.0547-2.0584
Bahrain dinar	0.6290-0.6410
Brazil real	1.7474-1.7520
China yuan	13.809-14.109
Cyprus pound	0.7775-0.7875
Finland markka	7.7150-7.8310
Greece drachma	404.5-411.5
Hong Kong dollar	13.0168-13.0272
India rupee	59.67-60.63
Indonesia rupiah	3921.0-3989.6
Kuwait dinar KD	[illegible]
Malaysia ringgit	4.2524-4.2566
New Zealand dollar	2.3609-2.3640
Pakistan rupee	67.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0700-6.1940
Singapore dollar	2.3597-2.3619
S Africa rand (com)	7.7150-7.8170
U A E dirham	6.1225-6.2465

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

3i	735	Lloyds TSB	7,400
ASDA Gp	13,200	LucasVarity	798
Abbey Ntl	2,800	Marks Spr	3,600
Allied Dom	1,900	NatWst Bk	3,200
Argos	112	Nat Grid	2,300
AB Foods	1,300	Nat Power	1,800
BAA	318	Next	550
BAT Inds	3,800	Orange	926
BOC	570	P & O	282
BP	4,800	Pearson	277
BSkyB	2,000	Pilkington	2,900
BTR	12,100	PowerGen	1,800
BT	3,700	Prudential	2,700
Bk of Scot	1,200	RMC	373
Barclays	2,000	RTZ	2,100
Bass	1,000	Railtrack	4,200
Blue Circle	1,100	Rank Group	2,000
Boots	907	Reckitt Col	2,000
BAe	471	Redland	1,800
BA	807	Reed Intl	1,100
Brit Gas	6,800	Rentokil Inl	1,100
Brit Steel	1,100	Reuters	2,700
Burmah Cstl	416	Rolls Royce	2,200
Burton	5,700	Royal & Sun	1,700
Cable Wire	2,100	Royal Bk Scl	640
Cadbury	962	Safeway	6,100
Carlton Cms	638	Sainsbury	3,200
Cm Union	2,800	Schroders	212
Courtaulds	813	Scot & New	2,500
Dixons	1,400	Scot Power	5,800
EMI	782	Svrn Trent	976
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Shell Trans	2,200
GKN	875	Siebe	2,900
GRE	689	SmKl Bch	3,000
GUS	2,300	Smith Nph	949
Gen Acc	256	Smiths Inds	504
Gen Elec	1,600	Std Chartd	993
Glaxo Well	3,100	TI Gp	644
Granada	382	Tate & Lyle	319
Grand Met	4,900	Tesco	1,500
Guinness	1,600	Thames W	198
HSBC	1,100	Tomkins	2,400
Hanson	6,300	Unilever	364
ICI	802	Utd Utilities	368
Imp Tob	1,400	Utd News	499
Kingfisher	2,500	Vodafone	5,100
LASMO	172	Whitbread	645
Ladbroke	1,600	Wlms Hld	1,200
Land Secs	890	Wolseley	460
Legal & Gn	2,500	Zeneca	2,100

	Dec 2 midday	Nov 30 close
AMP Inc	38	38½
AMR Corp	90½	91½
ARA	37½	37½
AT & T	38½	39½
Abbott Labs	55	55½
Advanced Micro	24½	24½
Aetna Life	71½	72½
[illegible]	32½	33
Air Prod & Chem	69½	69½
AirTouch Comm	28½	29½
Alberto-Culver B	47½	47½
Albertson's	34½	34½
Alcan Aluminm	35½	35½
Alco Standard	51½	51½
Allied Signal	71½	73½
Alum Co of Am	63	63½
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	59½	58½
Amer Brands	47½	47½
Amer El Power	40½	41½
Amer Express	51½	53½
Amer Genl Corp	41½	41½
Amer Home Pr	64½	64½
Amer Intl	114½	115
Amer Stores	39½	39½
Amer Standard	37½	38½
Ameritech	58½	58½
Amoco	77½	77½
Anheuser-Busch	41	42½
Apple Computer	24½	24½
Archer Daniels	21½	22
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	75	75½
Asarco	27½	27½
Atl Richfield	139½	139½
Autom Data Pro	42½	42½
Avery Dennison	70½	70½
Avon Products	55½	55½
Baker Hughes	36½	36½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	47½	47½
BankAmerica	104½	[illegible]
Bank of NY	35	35½
Bankers Tr NY	86	87
Barnett Banks	42½	44
Bausch & Lomb	36½	37½
Baxter Intl	42	42½
Bectn Dickinsn	42½	42
Bell Atlantic	62	62½
Bell Industries	20½	20½
BellSouth	39½	40½
Black & Decker	37½	37½
Block (H&R)	29½	29½
Boeing	98½	99½
Boise Cascade	31	31
Bristol Myrs Sq	115	113½
Browning Ferris	26½	26½
Brunswick	25½	25½
Burlingtn Nthn	85½	85½
CMS Energy Corp	32½	32½
CNA Financial	107½	107½
CPC Intl	82½	83½
CSX	46½	46½
Campbell Soup	82½	82½
Can Pacific	27½	27½
Carolina Pwr	39½	38½
Caterpillar	78½	79½
Central & SW	26½	26½
Champion Intl	42½	43
Chase Manhat	95½	94½
Chevron Corp	66½	67
Chrysler	35½	35½
Chubb Corp	53½	54½
Cigna Corp	139½	141½
Citicorp	107½	109½
Clorox	101½	104½
Coastal Corp	48½	48½
Coca Cola	50½	51½
Coca Cola Ent	44½	45½
Colgate-Palmolive	91½	92½
Columbia Gas	63½	64½
ColumbiaHCA	39½	40
Compaq Comp	80½	79½
Comp Ass Intl	66	65½
Conagra	52½	53½
Conrail	97½	97½
Cons Edison	29½	29
Cons Nat Gas	55½	55½
Cooper Inds	41½	41½
Corestates	53½	53½
Corning Inc	41	40½
Crown Cork	52½	53
Dana Corp	31½	31½
Dayton Hudson	39½	38½
Deere	44½	44½
Delta Air Lines	75	75½
Deluxe Corp	31	31
Digital Equip	39½	36½
Dillard Dept St	31	30½
Disney (Walt)	73½	73½
Dominion Res	37½	38½
Donelley (RR)	33	33½
Dover Corp	52½	53½
Dow Chemical	83½	83½
Dow Jones	34½	34½
Dresser	32½	32½
Duke Power	46½	46½
Dun & Bradstreet	22½	23½
Du Pont	95½	94½
Eastman Chem	56½	57½

	Dec 2 midday	Nov 30 close
Eastman Kodak	81½	81
Eaton Corp	68	69½
Edison Int	19½	19½
Emerson Elec	97½	98½
Engelhard Corp	19½	19½
Enron Corp	46½	45½
Entergy	27½	27½
Ethyl Corp	9	9½
Exxon	93½	94½
FMC Corp	78½	77½
FPL Group	45½	46½
Federal Express	43½	44½
Fed Nat Mtge	40½	41½
First Bk Sys	72½	72½
First Union Rlty	10½	10½
Fleet Finl Grp	54½	55½
Fluor Corp	64½	66
Ford Motor	32½	32½
GTE Corp	44½	44½
Gannett	77½	78½
Gap Inc Del	32½	32½
Gencorp	16½	16½
Gen Dynamics	73½	73½
Gen Electric	102½	104
Gen Mills	63½	63½
Gen Motors	57½	57½
Gen Reinsurance	160½	160½
Gen Signal	43½	43½
Genuine Parts	45½	45
Georgia Pac	73½	72½
Gillette	73½	77½
Glaxo Welc ADR	32½	32½
Goodrich (BF)	44½	44½
Goodyear Tire	48½	48½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	32	32½
Great Wstn Fin	29½	31½
Halliburton	60½	60½
Harcourt General	55	54½
Heinz (HJ)	37½	37½
Hercules	48	48½
Hershey Foods	49	49½
Hewlett Packard	54½	53½
Hilton Hotels	29½	29½
Home Depot	52½	52½
Homestake Mng	15½	15½
Honeywell	69	68½
Household Intl	93	94½
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	18½	18½
ITT Corp	45½	46½
Illinois Tool	86½	85½
Illinova	26½	26½
INCO	34½	34½
Ingersoll Rand	46½	46½
Inland Steel	18½	18½
Intel Corp	126	128½
IBM	161½	157½
Intl Flav & Fr	45½	45½
Intl Paper	41½	42½
James River Va	32½	32
Johnsn & Jhnsn	52½	53½
Kellogg	66½	67½
Kerr-McGee	70½	70
Kimberly-Clark	97½	97½
Kmart	11½	11½
Knight-Ridder	41½	42
Lilly (Eli)	79½	76½
Limited Inc	18½	18
Lincoln Nat	52½	53½
Litton	47½	48½
Liz Claiborne	42½	42½
Lockheed Martin	89½	90½
Louisiana Pac	22½	22½
MCI Comm	30½	30½
Marriott Int	55½	55½
Marsh & McLen	113	113½
Masco Corp	35½	36½
May Dept St	49½	49½
Maytag Corp	19	19½
McDonalds	46½	48½
McDonnell D	52	55½
McGraw Hill	49½	49½
Mead Corp	59	59½
Medtronic	65½	66½
Mellon Bk	71½	72½
Merck Inc	82½	83
Merrill Lynch	79½	80½
Microsoft	158½	156½
Minnesota Mine	82½	83½
Mobil Corp	120½	121
Monsanto	39½	39½
Morgan (JP)	92½	94½
Motorola Inc	58	59½
Natl Semi	24½	24½
Natl Service Ind	35	35
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	37½	37½
Newmont Mng	45½	46½
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike-B	59½	57½
NL Industries	10	9½
Noram Energy	15½	15½
Nordstrom	43½	42½
Norfolk Sthn	89½	90
Nthn State Pwr	47	47½
Norwest Corp	45	46½
Nynex Corp	46½	48½
Occidental Pet	23½	24
Ohio Edison	22½	23
Oracle	49½	49

	Dec 2 midday	Nov 30 close
Oryx Energy Co	20½	20½
Overseas Ship	16	16
Owens Corning	43½	42½
PHH Corp	44½	44½
PPG Industries	62½	61½
PNC Bank	38½	39½
PP&L Res	23	22½
Paccar Inc	66½	66½
Pacificorp	20½	21
Pac Enterprises	30½	30½
Pac Gas & Elect	27½	24½
Pac Telesis	36½	37
Pall Corp	25½	26½
Parker Hannifin	40½	40½
Peco Energy	25½	25½
Penney (JC)	54½	55½
Pennzoil	56½	58½
Pepsico	29½	29½
Pfizer	88½	89½
Pharm & Upjhn	39½	38½
Phelps Dodge	72½	72½
Philip Morris	102½	103½
Phillips Pet	44½	45½
Pitney Bowes	59½	59
Polaroid	42½	42½
PriceCostco	23½	23½
Procter & Gmbl	107½	108½
Providian	52½	51½
Pub Serv E & G	28½	28½
Quaker Oats	37½	39½
Ralston Purina	74½	76½
Raychem Corp	84½	85½
Raytheon	51½	51½
Reebok Intl	37½	38
Reynolds Metals	58½	59½
Rockwell Intl	63½	64½
Rohm & Haas	79½	79½
Royal Dutch	168½	169½
Rubbermaid	23½	24
SBC Comms	52½	52½
Safeco Corp	41	41½
St Paul Cos	59½	58½
Salomon Inc	48½	48½
Sara Lee Corp	38½	39½
Schering Plough	70½	71½
Schlumberger	102½	104
Seagram	40½	40½
Sears Roebuck	51½	49½
Shell Trans	99½	99½
Sherwin Wms	56½	56½
Skyline Corp	25½	26
Snap-On	39½	38½
Southern Co	22½	22½
Sprint Corp	41½	41½
Stanley Works	28½	29½
Sun Company	24½	25
Sun Microsys	59½	58½
Suntrust Bks	50½	50½
Supervalu	29½	29½
Sysco Corp	33½	34½
TRW Inc	96½	97½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	13½	13½
Tandy Corp	42½	42½
Temple Inland	55½	57½
Tenneco	52½	57
Texaco	98½	99½
Texas Inst	65½	63½
Texas Utilities	39½	39½
Textron	94½	95½
Time Warner	40½	40½
Times Mirror A	52½	52½
Timken	45½	45½
Torchmark	50½	52
Toys R Us	34½	34½
Transamerica	78½	79½
Travelers	44½	45
Tribune	85	86½
Tyco Intl	54½	54½
UST Inc	31½	32½
UAL	58	57½
US Inds	20½	20½
US West Comm	31	31½
USX Marathon	23½	22½
Unicom	26½	26½
Unilever NV	170½	173½
Union Camp	48	49½
Union Carbide	45½	46½
Union Pacific	57½	58½
[illegible]	39½	39
USAIR Group	22½	23½
USF&G Corp	19½	20
US Life	30½	30½
United Tech	127½	130½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VF Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner Lambert	71½	71½
Wells Fargo	267½	269½
Westinghouse El	18½	18½
Weyerhaeuser	46	46
Whirlpool	49½	50
Whitman	22½	23
Winn Dixie	33½	33½
Woolworth	24	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	57½	58½
Xerox	49½	49½
Yellow Corp	15½	15

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Sainsbury's up the junction

SAINSBURY'S state-of-the-art store in Clapham is a dry house, after the supermarket chain failed to obtain a drinks licence.

A week since the store's grand opening on Budget day, and customers are still going thirsty. Due to a "misunderstanding", a sign in the wine and spirits aisle reads: "The licensing justices have not yet granted us a licence to sell liquor."

Sainsbury tells me that a hearing today with the local magistrate could bring welcome news. Meanwhile, it's smiles all round at Victoria Wine and Oddbins next door.

Governor's try

EDDIE GEORGE took on Hitoshi Tonomura, chairman of Nomura in Europe, at Twickenham last Saturday. Gambling on the England v New Zealand match, the two men pitted their forecasting skills in a rugby sweepstake.

The Governor's position was looking strong until half time, with his money on England scoring first, and an England victory by three points. But it was "Tono" who hit the jackpot, predicting the outcome exactly, with England scoring first and New Zealand winning by 15 points.

Unfortunately for the passionate anglophile, he wasn't the only one to fare so well. The winning name was eventually pulled out of a hat, and a fellow guest ran off with the prize — a bottle of Jameson's.

"Don't look now but here comes Santa with our ¼-point increase"

THE ban on advertising alcohol in France means that Scottish and Newcastle has been relegated to the bench for tomorrow's Auxerre v Glasgow Rangers match. Instead of sporting the McEwans logo, Gazza's team will wear one-off shirts bearing the Center Parcs symbol. Gazza won't muddy a shirt himself, whatever its design, as he is suspended for the game.

Hector's hiccup

HOIST by its own petard, Financial Dynamics yesterday fell victim to the malice of the office fax machine. Addressed to Roland Folz at Foreign & Colonial Management, a misdirected fax from FD's Charles Watson lands on my desk. Delighted with Hypo Bank's recent move to take management control of F&C, Watson suggests that a celebratory lunch to mark the success of Project Hector. Ever the professional, Watson adds: "We will also be sending you an invoice for expenses incurred during the project, such as press release distribution ..."

Off their trolleys

AT EMAP'S extraordinary meeting to decide the fate of two rebel directors, shareholders were treated to a joke by Anne Simpson, joint director of Pirc, the research consultant. Question: What's the difference between a non-executive director and a supermarket trolley? Answer: You can get lots of food and drink into both, but supermarket trolleys have a mind of their own.

MORAG PRESTON

Touch of biter-bitten spices latest 'Chainsaw Al' massacre

Ian Brodie on the company doctor of last resort with a well-honed flair for 'Dunlapping'

Albert J. Dunlap, also known as "Chainsaw Al", has been enjoying more publicity as a saviour of troubled companies than any American business leader since the flamboyant reign of Lee Iacocca at Chrysler.

Reporters have been lining up to interview him about his latest mass sackings. He has just taken his axe to half the 12,000 jobs at Sunbeam Corp, the sprawling consumer products company. He has also been promoting his new autobiography, *Mean Business: How I Save Bad Companies and Make Good Companies Great*. The book uses "to Dunlap" as a verb, meaning to turn a company around at lightning speed.

Now, suddenly, the biter has been bitten. Mr Dunlap's private life has been turned into public fodder. *Business Week* alleged that family ties seemingly meant less to him than he asserts in his book. He writes that what makes a successful individual comes down to one word, family, and he wishes that his parents were still alive to "see what they created".

But his estranged sister Denise alleges that he ignored his parents in their old age and was too busy to attend their funerals, that he refused to offer her emotional or financial help when she told him her daughter had leukaemia, and that his first wife alleged extreme cruelty in her divorce suit.

He was said to have shaded the details of his youth. His book says that he grew up poor in a New Jersey slum, the son of a dockworker. His sister says their father was a successful boilermaker who took the family on holidays, recorded in photo albums, from Canada to Florida. She says her parents rewarded Mr Dunlap with a new car and a holiday in Europe when he graduated as an army officer from West Point military academy.

Mr Dunlap is no longer available for interviews. Instead of propounding his hard-charging theories as "the doctor of last resort", he issued a statement rebutting some but not all of his sister's comments. He said that he had endured a strained relationship with her for years and she was prone to making up stories about him that were baseless or exaggerated. He had supported her many times financially but his efforts were never appreciated. He was deeply saddened by her unfounded comments about his parents, whom he had loved very much and had helped a great deal.

As for intimidating his first wife, as court papers alleged, Mr Dunlap said that in those days divorces were difficult to obtain unless couples embellished their evidence. Besides, he added, it was inappropriate to discuss family matters in the press. That might normally be the case, said *Business Week* but Mr Dunlap had made his life story part of his controversial management philosophy and therefore his character was a legitimate subject for scrutiny. For Mr Dunlap, the episode was a rare setback.

Albert J. Dunlap, above, christened 'Pinstripe Rambo' by his former employer, Sir James Goldsmith, below right, seen with Kerry Packer

After his army stint, he learnt manufacturing from the shop floor up. An early management coup was the aggressive transformation of an ailing paper-cup firm, Lily-Tulip Inc, into a profitable plum. He was recruited by Sir James Goldsmith, whose friend John Aspinall, the naturalist and gambler, first coined the "chainsaw" label. Mr Dunlap complains that it makes him sound like a serial killer. He prefers Sir James's nickname for him: "Rambo in Pinstripes".

Mr Dunlap shook up Sir James's global holdings, including Crown-Zellerbach, a timber and oil conglomerate where he cut 22 distribution centres to four, sold the costly headquarters tower in San Francisco and moved to Oregon. He regards Sir James as his mentor and lavishes praise on him in his book: "He was a larger-than-life influence on me, an absolutely brilliant, dynamic and gregarious man who fished me out of the corporate stream and made me what I am today. He encouraged me in everything I did and introduced me to a world of enormous wealth and power."

Moving to Australia, Mr Dunlap tackled Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings, a huge conglomerate, carving up 300 of 413 companies and discarding the unprofitable bits. Three years ago he was lured back to the United States by the board of Scott Paper, which had lost $277 million in a year.

Mr Dunlap again went on the attack, slashing expenses, dumping product lines, merging others and paring debt. He dismissed 11,200 employees, a third of the workforce, including the corporate "morale officer". To the fury of local officials, he wiped out Scott's traditional links to community and charity work and moved its headquarters from Philadelphia to Florida.

Mr Dunlap bridles at accusations that he relishes sackings, insisting they are made necessary by the need to protect shareholders' investments. "When I fire people, *of course* I feel for them," he says, "but what I keep uppermost in my mind is that if I don't release them today I'm going to have to cut more of them in six months or a year."

"Dunlapping" worked. Scott's stock rose 225 per cent, adding $6.3 billion to the company's value. A year ago, Scott's shareholders approved a $9.4 billion merger with Kimberly-Clark Corp. Mr Dunlap brushed off critics who accused him of cutting muscle along with fat and taking credit for improvements that were in the works before he arrived. He walked away with $100 million in salary, bonus, stock gains and other perks.

Mr Dunlap was far from shy about it. He said: "My pay should be compared to superstars in other fields, not the average CEO. Only a handful of chief executives are worth the big bucks they are paid." He portrayed Scott as a sloppy, incorrigible mess that he transformed into a focused, highly desirable and profitable corporation. "Not bad for less than two years' work," he said, brash as ever.

Brought into Sunbeam as chairman and CEO last July, he followed his pattern of moving quickly to change the old guard and the timeworn corporate culture. He reassembled the turnaround specialists who help him whenever he applies surgery to a sickly company. They fanned through Sunbeam seeking solutions. They returned with files five inches thick, recommending new marketing strategies, new advertising campaigns, a new slogan ("There's a New Sunbeam Shining") — and massive job cuts.

The 6,000 dismissals are perhaps the biggest single percentage cutback ever by a major US corporation. In addition, Mr Dunlap's recovery plan requires closing 18 of 26 factories and more than half the 61 warehouses, eliminating six regional headquarters and unloading 87 per cent of Sunbeam's 5,000 products, including clocks, furniture and bedding. He will concentrate on new lines, among them an "electric blanket with a brain" that adjusts to body temperature, and a toaster that applies "logic" to its task.

Mr Dunlap said that his plan will save $225 million a year. He expects revenue to double to $2 billion by 1999, with $1.2 billion coming from new products and joint ventures overseas. His plan cuts more deeply than Wall Street expected and there was the familiar criticism that Mr Dunlap was simply speeding up implementation of the original management's plans. His planned revenue growth will be hard going, but Sunbeam's shares have more than doubled from $12 when Mr Dunlap joined, to a peak of $29.75.

One Wall Street analyst told him during a conference call that "Chainsaw Al" was beginning to sound rather wimpish. "If you pull this off, you should be called 'Nuclear Al'," he said.

JANET BUSH

Softly, softly catchee euro

Eurosceptics in Britain and elsewhere should not get too excited about the revolutionary mutterings in Paris last week. After years of putting up in silence with mass unemployment and annual waves of violent public-sector unrest all in the name of the *franc fort* and the dream of European monetary union, parts of the French political establishment appear to be questioning such self-sacrifice.

The former president, Giscard d'Estaing, was the biggest name to break rank. He argued that the dollar is grossly undervalued against European currencies, expressed concern that Germany does not share this view, and suggested that if Germany will not bring down the mark, and with it the franc, then France should devalue against the mark by cutting rates unilaterally.

His intervention gave succour to others. Two members of the Bank of France's policy-making council expressed similar views and were rebuked by Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the bank, for airing personal opinions. At the weekend, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and President Chirac offered damage-limitation in the form of a joint statement committing themselves to maintaining the franc/mark parity.

So, is Franco-German unanimity in the run-up to monetary union, so far so solid, finally crumbling? Will the single currency project collapse? Will John Major or Tony Blair be spared having to make a choice after all? No, no, no, as Margaret Thatcher was fond of saying.

There is a big difference between calls for a franc devaluation against the mark — from a former president and the two notorious doves on the Bank of France's council — and a desire to ensure that the euro is not overvalued against the dollar and others, condemning Europe to uncompetitiveness and high unemployment.

A franc devaluation is unlikely, given France's long record of political commitment to EMU. But France may well push Germany for a looser European monetary policy as the quid pro quo for Germany's insistence on strict interpretation of the Maastricht criteria, and a tough stability pact to enforce fiscal discipline post-EMU. This negotiation goes to the heart of conceptual differences between the two countries. Every utterance out of Germany suggests that it wants a hard euro, with few members if necessary. But France's political dreamers are pursuing a more-the-merrier approach with a soft euro the inevitable result.

The question of who is allowed to join the euro is a genuinely contentious one. But the chasm on how soft or hard the euro should be *vis-à-vis* other currencies may not actually be that wide. Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, said at the weekend that he would not object to a "slightly stronger dollar" against the mark. For all the tough talk, Germany's exporters could do with ammunition against Far Eastern tigers and the Bundesbank may well be contented to let unwitting surrogates in the Bank of France achieve this on its behalf.

Whatever the current disagreements, in the end France is likely to call the shots because Chancellor Kohl will do virtually anything to make sure the single currency goes ahead. Germany was notably more reluctant than France to see Italy readmitted to the ERM but France made sure it happened anyway. President Chirac publicly welcomed the prospect, Italy was emboldened formally to request readmittance and, once the monetary committee was convened, it was inconceivable that Germany could stop the process without huge damage to the credibility of the single currency project.

If France went and cut rates on its own, the Bundesbank might be angry but it would be forced to bail out the franc unless it wanted to be accused of wrecking EMU. A less dramatic but still highly effective course for the French would simply be to talk down the mark and franc. There is little doubt that France will get its soft euro. The chances are it will block Germany's stability pact straitjacket, too.

Impact of law on disability yet to be grasped by firms

Act offers ample opportunities to astute lawyers, writes **Grania Langdon-Down**

Employers will have to get to grips with a whole new concept of discrimination as the job-related provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 came into effect yesterday. While critics of the Act argue that it does not go far enough, it will have immense significance for employers — both financially and operationally.

Firms that employ more than 20 people must ensure that their employment practices and premises do not disadvantage someone with a disability. This applies to recruitment, terms and conditions of employment, opportunities for promotion or any other benefit, or dismissal. All disabled workers are protected, including contract and self-employed staff.

Employers are also required to make "reasonable" adjustments to working conditions or the workplace so disabled people are not put at a disadvantage. Those who do not meet the requirements of the Act, could face an industrial tribunal hearing that can award unlimited compensation.

The Government has estimated that the employment provisions of the Act will cost employers about £6 million overall. It also expects 2,000 cases to go to industrial tribunals in the first year alone.

Jane Ellis, an employment law specialist, said: "Employers who ignore the rights of disabled workers now do so at their peril.

Disabled rights campaigners helped to bring about an important change in employment law

"Many employers are already used to dealing with the concept of discrimination in relation to race and sex and may believe they are well equipped to deal with the provisions of the Act.

"But many have not yet grasped its full impact. On the face of it, the obligations the Act imposes on employers to accommodate disabled people go much further than the law relating to sexual or racial discrimination."

The Act also lists examples of adjustments employers would be expected to make to accommodate a disabled worker. They extend far beyond simply removing physical limitations and include allocating some of the disabled person's duties to another person, altering working hours, allowing time off for rehabilitation, assessment or treatment, acquiring or modifying equipment, modifying procedures for testing, providing a reader or interpreter.

However, factors such as operational requirements and financial considerations will be taken into account in determining whether it is "reasonable" for the employers to make the adjustments.

The Government has estimated that it will cost employers on average £200 to accommodate a disabled person, although many suspect the bill will be much higher. Employers can be helped by charities and other organisations, including the government-funded Access to Work Scheme.

Ms Ellis said: "The Act means, for example, an employer should not simply dismiss a production worker who suffers from long-term back trouble and can no longer move easily or lift ordinary weights. Instead, he must look at ways of adjusting the person's working conditions to overcome the problem."

Employers are also going to have to be aware of "disability etiquette", both in recruiting and in the workplace. For example, advertisements should no longer say "ring this telephone number" because that would suggest a prejudice against deaf people. They are also vicariously liable for the actions of their employees or agents so staff need to be properly trained.

Asked if the Act would stop discrimination, Ms Ellis said: "What I can predict is a great deal of litigation. It is likely to turn into a field day for lawyers because so much of the wording is open to interpretation."

Four vie for BR computer business

By Keith Rodgers

THE British Railways Board has drawn up a shortlist of four potential buyers for BR Business Systems, its computer arm, early next year.

Final bids for the division, which provides ticketing and operating computer services for a range of customers including Railtrack and the train operating companies (TOCs), will be submitted this month, and the sale is expected to go through in February. Sources said the company is likely to be valued at up to £50 million.

Cap Gemini, the French-quoted computer services company, and Sema, which is 41 per cent French owned and quoted in London and Paris, are understood to be on the shortlist, along with Andersen Consulting and CFM, a subsidiary of ICL. All four declined to comment on the sale.

One surprising absentee is EDS, the computer services giant, which has won a large number of public-sector computer contracts, including deals with the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security. The company submitted a bid, but its offer is believed to have been rejected as too low.

BRBS, which employees around 1,100 people, had turnover of about £87 million in the year to March 31, and is thought to be profitable. Although it has more than 80 customers, negotiations over the sale have been complicated by the contracts with Railtrack and TOCs, which form a key part of the division's business. Railtrack said that it was not involved in the sell-off negotiations but "looks on with interest".

It is thought that the bids will be submitted at around £50 million. However, some observers have suggested that figure is high, arguing that the division requires a large amount of investment. The British Railways Board refused to comment.

MARTIN BEDDALL

David Michels, right, chief executive of Stakis, with Richard Cole-Hamilton, chairman, after unveiling full-year profits of £30 million yesterday

Stakis confident of profiting from Metropole integration

By Alasdair Murray

STAKIS, the leisure company, said yesterday it was confident that the performance of the Metropole hotel group would more than match forecasts made when it purchased the chain for £327 million from Lonrho at the end of October.

David Michels, chief executive, said that Stakis is aiming to add around £8 million in turnover and make £4 million of cost savings as it integrates the hotel group this year. His comments came as the company unveiled a 23 per cent rise in full-year profits, excluding tax and exceptionals, to £30.7 million, in line with a forecast made at the time of the Metropole acquisition.

Turnover increased by 18.5 per cent, to £206 million, while the total dividend was increased by 23 per cent, to 2.15p.

Profits in the hotel division excludes any contribution from Metropole, which was purchased after the year-end of September 29, rose by 29 per cent, to £40 million. Occupancy levels increased from 72.1 per cent to 76.3 per cent, while the average room rate rose from £43.94 to £46.37. The total number of rooms increased to 5,363, spread across 42 hotels.

Stakis said that it is in the process of building new hotels in the London borough of Islington, Belfast, Dublin and Sheffield, which will add a further 635 rooms to the division. The company added that it remained confident about the market, especially as the low level of new builds should ensure room to continue improving margins.

Profits in the casino division fell to £9 million, from £11.7 million, after the company's exit from the London market with the £27 million sale of the Barracuda in April. Stakis said its new Riverboat Casino in Glasgow had started well and the company is aiming to roll out the concept across six new sites.

Stakis also opened new sites in Cardiff and Bournemouth during the year, and in Gibraltar. The company added that the performance of the division was now improving although it would be some time before the full potential is realised.

The health and leisure division contributed a maiden profit of £600,000 in line with company expectations. Stakis has combined the LivingWell group of clubs with its existing hotel-based health clubs and is looking to expand the concept.

Mr Michels said that overall the company believes its markets remain buoyant and can approach the future with confidence.

Shares in the company closed unchanged at 90.5p. A final dividend of 1.2p is payable next April 11.

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German trust plans to raise £6.7m

By Caroline Merrell

THE East German Investment Trust (Egit) is hoping to raise around £6.7 million through a placing of shares priced at 32p.

At the same time as raising the extra cash, the £56 million trust is also switching fund managers, appointing Foreign & Colonial Ventures in place of Ermgassen. Ermgassen lays some of the blame for the trust's poor performance at the door of Treuhand, the German privatisation agency and is suing Treuhand for compensation.

Shares in the fund, launched at the beginning of 1991, now stand at 35p, around a third of the issue price. The fund was set up to invest in German privatisations. The trust says some of its problems have been caused by Treuhand's failure to fulfil its promises.

The money raised through the share placing will be used to pay the ongoing expenses of the fund. The trust's directors believe that there are prospects for achieving higher values from the current portfolio of investments.

Egit's biggest shareholders include City of London Investment and Norwich Union.

Rationing aids Eurodollar

By Fraser Nelson

THE stabilisation of the second-hand car market enabled Eurodollar, the car hire company, to double its interim profits in the six months to September 30.

However, despite the recovery in pre-tax profits to £4.76 million (£2.42 million), Eurodollar is cutting its interim dividend to 2p (3.12p), payable on January 4. The company, which sells all of its cars less than a year after purchase, credited carmakers for the recovery in the "nearly new" market.

Ian Mosley, chief executive, said manufacturers had become concerned about the abundance of cars less than a year old in the second-hand market, and had rationed supply to companies likely to resell within nine months. He said this had firmed the market for the 30,000 cars it sells off every year.

He said: "While the prices are not significantly better than last year, they have at least stabilised."

Eurodollar's earnings rose to 6.79p per share (3.63p). Turnover reached £54.2 million (£48.6 million). Its shares rose 1p to 120p yesterday.

Mosley: cutting dividend

Discovery backs Premier Oil's increased offer

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

DISCOVERY Petroleum, the Australian oil producer, has belatedly endorsed Premier Oil's bid for the company after the offer was increased marginally by one cent to 81 cents, valuing Discovery at A$107.8 million (about £54 million).

Peter Jones, Discovery chairman, said: "With the increase of the Premier bid to a level which more fairly reflects the value of Discovery's shares, directors recommend acceptance of Premier's offer and intend immediately accepting for their own and their associated shareholdings."

Oil Search, the oil production company based in Papua New Guinea, also said it would accept the offer in respect of its 10 per cent stake. It acquired the stake just four days after Premier launched its initial A$92 million bid for Discovery and had been widely expected to make a rival offer. Discovery's share fell 2 cents to 80 cents on the Australian stock exchange.

Charles Jamieson, chief executive of Premier, said: "We are delighted to have received the support of the Discovery board and look forward to working with the Discovery team in building Premier's business in the region."

The key attraction of Discovery is its stake in Indonesia's Kalap offshore oilfield, which is situated close to Premier's recently acquired interest in the West Natuna Sea block oilfield off the coast of Indonesia.

Discovery's assets also include an exploration interest in the Carnarvon Basin off the western coast of Australia, and exploration and production interests in the Perth Basin in Western Australia.

BTG profit comes with a warning

By Fraser Nelson

BTG, the patent licensing group, yesterday returned its first interim profit for three years, but warned shareholders that the gain was exceptional and that the underlying business was unlikely to break even for another three years.

Payments from licensees, added to an £840,000 profit from the sale of a stake in IOC International, the AIM-listed optical cables group, took revenue to £12.1 million (£8.8 million). This lifted pre-tax profits to £170,000 for the six months to September 30 against a £2.1 million loss last time.

BTG shares, floated at 225p in June 1995, eased from £25.12½ to £24.37½ yesterday. The company proposes splitting its shares by a factor of five, to bring them in line with normal UK prices and make them more marketable in the US.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Toy Options acquires Hong Kong group

TOY OPTIONS, the toy distribution and marketing company, stepped into the international arena yesterday with the US$1.6 million purchase of World Wide Licences, a Hong Kong company which specialises in "near-toy" products such as children's watches. World Wide holds the licences for watches based on characters from Star Wars, Looney Tunes, Batman, Superman, Dragonflyz and others, in 44 markets, including North America and Europe. The purchase price is comprised of $750,000 in cash and 522,000 Toy Options shares, issued at 105p each.

Toy Options reported pre-tax profits of £3.66 million in the year to August 31, up 117 per cent, on turnover that rose 34 per cent to £30.3 million. Earnings per share were 12.33p against 7.16p, and a final dividend of 2.5p, to be paid on January 31, makes the total dividend 3.5p, up 35 per cent. Mr King said that Christmas sales so far are "substantially ahead" of the corresponding period in 1995.

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Pillar agrees £35m lease

PILLAR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS plans a big City redevelopment adjoining Paternoster Square, the controversial central London site controlled by Mitsubishi Estates and which abuts St Paul's Cathedral. Pillar has agreed to acquire a long leasehold interest in Sudbury House for about £35 million from Magnox Electric. The Sudbury House site has planning permission for a 300,000 sq ft office building and Pillar's agreement to acquire the 200-year lease is conditional on securing a tenant for the redeveloped building.

Oriflame's Latin success

ORIFLAME INTERNATIONAL, the skincare and cosmetics group, plans to build on its success in South America by entering the Brazilian market next year. The company said yesterday that strong sales in Chile, Peru, Mexico and Ecuador helped pre-tax profit to rise 21 per cent to £9.6 million (£8 million) in the half year to September 30. Eastern Europe sales were also well ahead. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 14.3p. The interim dividend, due on February 13, is up 10 per cent to 5.5p.

OMI back in the black

OMI INTERNATIONAL, the measurement technology company, has returned to the black with profits of £375,000 for the six months to September 30. The company lost £3.3 million in the same period last year. Half-year sales rose by 8 per cent to £21.6 million, and gross margins improved from 21 to 25 per cent. Next month, OMI plans to amend its reserves to allow it to resume dividend payments.

Silentnight close to deal

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, the bed and cabinet furniture maker, is in talks with Spring Ram about buying its Meredew Cabinets subsidiary for about £5 million. It expects to complete the purchase by the end of the month. Meredew, based in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, makes cabinet furniture for bedrooms and living rooms. It has annual sales of £7 million. Turnover of Silentnight's cabinet furniture division was £54 million last year.

Blue Circle acquisition

BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES, the building materials and consumer products company, has acquired Venesta Cubicle Systems, a maker of shower, changing cubicles and washroom products, for £5.5 million. Venesta will become part of Blue Circle's bathrooms group, which already includes Armitage Shanks. Venesta, subject of a management buyout from Chime Communications in 1994, made pre-tax profits of £820,000 on turnover of £5.61 million in the year to March.

Tops Estates ahead

TOPS ESTATES, the shopping centre investment company, reported a 50 per cent improvement in first-half profits to £1.2 million. The recent refinancing of Leeds Shopping Plaza has cut group borrowing from £123 million to £46 million, reducing gearing from 124 per cent to 27 per cent. Earnings per share rose by just 9 per cent to 1.89p, because of a write-off of non-recoverable advance corporation tax. Tops will pay an interim dividend of 0.705p a share on March 28, up 5 per cent.

Seton buys Metrotop

SETON HEALTHCARE has acquired Metrotop, a gel wound treatment, from Pharmacia & Upjohn for £3.75 million. Metrotop had sales last year of £1.02 million and an operating profit of £760,000. Seton supplies wound management brands to hospitals and pharmacies in the UK. In the five years ending February this year, profits increased four times to £16.4 million. Seton said Metrotop fitted in with its existing wound dressing and infection control range.

Allen sets record

ALLEN, the construction and property group, recorded its highest pre-tax profit, up from £3.6 million to £4.71 million. Turnover was up by 31 per cent, to £71.1 million from £54.2 million, while earnings rose to 8.77p a share, from 7.30p. The dividend is increased fromn 2.46p to 3.09p a share. Donald Greenhalgh, chairman, said he was pleased the pre-tax profit was an all-time record, with the operating profits of the company's five sectors exceeding the first half of the year.

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01865 258 783				
Gradund Amer	232.50	245.10†	+ 0.20	...
Gradund Equity	288.50	308.10	− 0.40	1.77
Gradund Euro	265.70	281.20	− 0.70	0.58
Gradund Expt Bal	133.20	138.00		2.55
Gradund Gilt	78.67	78.20	+ 0.28	7.63
Gradund Japan	147.70	155.30†	− 2.70	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	684.20	728.00	− 2.20	2.45
General Inc	571.20	607.70	− 2.80	2.45
UK Growth Acc	471.30	501.40†	− 1.80	2.88
UK Growth Inc	305.00	324.50†	− 1.80	2.88
Higher Inc Acc	828.10	881.00†	− 1.90	2.88
Higher Inc Inc	441.10	469.30†	− 1.00	4.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	215.00	227.00	+ 0.30	5.35
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.13	99.42	+ 0.18	5.35
Nth America	367.70	391.20†	+ 1.70	..
Europe	357.20	380.10	− 0.80	0.44
Brit Excell	94.18	100.20†	− 0.40	2.70
Brit Fortunis Acc	118.10	125.70	− 0.10	4.60
Brit Fortunis Inc	78.99	84.04	− 0.08	4.60
Global Opps	100.20	106.70†	− 0.30	..
Balanced Acc	83.95	89.04†	− 0.10	2.54
Balanced Inc	59.70	63.52†	− 0.11	2.54
Japan Acc	40.50	43.09	− 0.01	..
Pac Basin Acc	397.10	422.50†	+ 1.70	0.00
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	130.60	141.80†	− 0.60	6.60
High Inc Equity	186.80	199.80	− 0.10	4.31
Worldwide Bond	271.00	287.40†	+ 0.50	5.12
American Growth	390.60	418.70	− 0.40	0.30
Asian Pacific	318.80	341.80	− 1.60	0.00
Assets & Earnings	306.30	329.70†	− 3.50	2.86
Euro Capital Acc	185.30	198.20	− 0.50	0.80
Euro Inc	40.34	41.11†	..	7.77
General	281.00	298.60	− 0.40	2.90
Global Opps	68.17	72.52	− 0.07	0.65
Japan	101.10	108.10	− 1.40	...
Managed Inc	48.39	51.49†	+ 0.03	4.68
Worldinvest	167.80	178.60	− 0.40	1.02
US Emerging Cos	201.80	214.70	+ 0.90	...
Ethical	81.76	86.98	+ 0.16	2.15
International	133.60	142.10	− 0.30	0.51
Dividend & Growth	70.00	74.47	− 0.08	4.12
Global Gwth & Sec	73.80	78.97	+ 0.07	2.35
Latin America	83.00	87.82	+ 0.12	..
Capital Reserve	149.30	149.30	...	4.76

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 588 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	109.17	116.90	− 0.02	1.82
American Portfolio	124.11	131.85	− 1.77	1.82
European Portfolio	134.86	143.54†	− 0.59	0.63
High Income	52.30	53.02†	+ 0.26	7.44
Japanese Portfolio	60.10	63.71	− 0.91	..
Pacific Portfolio	158.02	168.83	+ 0.31	1.86
UK Equity	98.50	105.25†	− 0.22	3.37
UK Equity & Bd	58.09	62.10	+ 0.06	6.15
UK Smlr Cos	51.84	55.45	+ 0.09	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	780.33	801.25	...	4.17
Fxd In Sec	159.56	160.20	...	8.05
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	777.85	788.41	...	4.20
Investment Acc	835.85	836.29	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	120.76	128.28	...	8.07
Fixed Int Acc	234.53	235.47	..	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.25	94.08†	...	4
Buck Bio-Tech	41.01	44.80	...	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	186.72	196.67	..	0.45
City Fin Assets	80.07	84.08	− 0.20	1.83
City Fin Intl	90.72	95.26†	..	0.13
Fame Elec Cap	312.82	332.70	− 7.85	2.53
Buckley Wrld Gth	135.56	144.00	..	..
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	58.51	62.28	..	3.10
Shaw Utilities	59.11	60.59†	+ 0.45	6.01
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	52.50	55.00	− 0.09	
CLERICAL, MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 238				
American Gwth	80.50	85.64	− 0.05	...
Dragon Growth	72.27	77.29	+ 0.23	0.31
Equity High Inc	90.44	96.56†	− 0.79	4.25
-do- Accum	131.75	141.26†	− 0.23	4.25
Extra Income Inc	27.85	29.49	+ 0.14	7.18
Extra Income Acc	29.77	31.55	+ 0.18	7.16
European Gwth	62.04	65.67	− 0.35	0.80

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond #	51.29	52.84†	+ 0.10	0.48
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690440				
Sector Value Inc #	107.00	112.95†	+ 0.10	3.65
Sector Value Gwth	108.30	114.20†		2.00
Hy 5 Europe	101.80	105.90	− 0.80	2.36
Slater Gwth	179.00	189.90†	− 1.72	0.46
New Japan	87.35	92.04	− 1.18	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	190.40	202.50	+ 3.00	...
Income #	224.02	238.85	+ 0.44	4.19
UK Growth	87.58	93.14	− 0.15	1.84

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	62.89	65.10†	+ 0.04	3.08
Intl Equity Growth	84.84	90.25†	− 0.28	0.75
N Amer Growth	140.42	149.29	+ 0.09	0.71
Special Sits Growth	28.58	30.43	+ 0.80	2.11
UK Growth	471.62	501.72	+ 0.45	2.88
-do- Accum	651.38	692.82	+ 0.80	2.88
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1444.70	1487.80†		2.90
Income #	1045.80	1080.30		4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 222 4242				
Maldon General	166.30	172.10	..	3.57

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	86.00	91.05	+ 0.34	0.46
Ecology	102.81	109.35†	+ 0.42	0.87
European	205.110	218.20	− 0.80	0.67
Far Eastern	300.40	318.50	− 1.30	...
UK Special Sits	54.30	57.86†	− 0.10	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7884				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	102.00	105.50†	− 0.70	7.05
Euro Pfd Inc	99.62	105.00†	..	..
-do- Accum	99.62	105.00†	...	..
Gilt Yield	128.10	128.80†	− 1.30	8.36
Global Income	231.00	245.70†	− 2.20	3.60
High Yield	157.10	167.10	− 1.40	5.58

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inc Pfolio	181.20	186.80	− 0.20	2.48
-do- Accum	215.10	221.70	− 0.20	2.48
UK Sel Pfolio	150.40	155.40†	− 2.00	2.53
-do- Accum	195.30	201.30†	− 0.40	2.52
UK 100 Cos	119.50	119.50	− 0.40	2.78
-do- Accum	121.80	121.80	− 0.80	2.78
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	73.00	78.51	..	3.58
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4848				
Intl Income	83.79	89.94†	− 0.86	3.46

Gilts up, equities down

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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LONGS (over 15 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

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INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

BRITISH FUNDS

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

هكذا من الاصل

LAW

Stephen Jacobi reports on the lorry drivers caught up in the drugs trade


EMMA BOAM


EAST COAST NEWS

Waiting game: Steve Bryant's father Peter reads a letter from his son while Danneke Neale (right), Mickey Chinnick's fiancée, prepares to visit him in jail

A case of rough justice

Steve Bryant, a 42-year-old lorry driver and father of four, went on a hunger strike in his squalid Tangier jail cell on November 1 in an attempt to secure better conditions. He finally ended it last week when he heard his demands were to be met and that his appeal would be expedited.

But such a victory brings little comfort when you face rough justice. He was arrested in January 1994 when cannabis was found under a consignment of frozen squid which was loaded into his trailer in his absence. For this he received the maximum jail term of ten years.

In Morocco, it is no defence to say that you were unaware that drugs were in your load. Only the French get remission because of their prisoner transfer scheme with Morocco.

In Bulgaria, two British drivers, Peter Hobbs and John Mills, from east London, are waiting to hear the result of their final appeal to the Supreme Court in Sofia. They were arrested on the Turkish border in 1995 after 20kg of heroin was found in an unlocked tool compartment on the outside of their rig to which anyone could have had access. Their trial was reduced to the level of farce when the judge realised there was going to be a potential conflict of interest between them. A new lawyer was appointed but the case continued without the lawyer being given the opportunity to take instructions. They were sentenced to 7½ years in jail.

Two years earlier, in 1993, Mickey Chinnick, a 55-year-old driver from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, was arrested on the Turkish side of the border in disturbingly similiar circumstances. He, too, carried a consignment of motor vehicle spare parts to Turkey from Britain and was ordered back via the same route with his empty lorry to pick up another load in Romania.

This time 7.5kg of heroin was found in an outer tool compartment of his vehicle. He has just completed his sentence of 3½ years. But despite being in poor health after a major operation, he is now serving an additional three years because he has no money to pay the £5,000 fine imposed on him.

It seems likely that these three cases are linked. "Piggy-back" smuggling — where drugs gangs use a concealed package attached to the outer part of a vehicle to smuggle illegal substances across frontiers without involving the driver — is a well-known and regular ploy.

The parcel is often strapped to the bottom of a coach in which the real couriers are passengers. Two weeks ago Clive Brown, a driver from Crayford, Kent, was cleared of a charge of smuggling 10kg of heroin into Britain, which was found strapped to the belly tank of his trailer. He, too, was returning from Romania.

There are encouraging signs that European Union law enforcement authorities are beginning to take drivers' vulnerability in these circumstances very seriously.

A partnership to educate these authorities and drivers' organisations on the dangers they face has been formed by the Fair Trials Abroad Trust and the Committee of Transport Workers in the EC, with the approval of the World Customs Organisation in Brussels.

Outside the EU, however, the situation remains bleak, with no end in sight for the British, Dutch and German drivers held in Morocco, Turkey and the old Soviet empire. Most of the problems stem from ignorance and unfair application of the law. Tachometers, known as the "spy in the cab", provide useful evidence of unauthorised lengthy stops or detours. Outside the EU, however, it is common for such evidence to be disregarded because lawyers and enforcement officers do not understand it.

There is widespread ignorance of transport industrial practice and the civilised judicial concept of the necessity of a guilty mind for an offence to be committed is disregarded in drivers' offences. The driver is, therefore, dependent on political and diplomatic pressure for fair consideration of his case before or after conviction. He is indeed out in the cold.

The Times Law Awards 1996

THERE is still time to enter the competition for *The Times* Law Awards 1996 with One Essex Court and win up to £3,000.

Students are invited to submit up to 1,000 words on "The Law Lords in the 90s — a New Supreme Court?". The first prize is £3,000, the second £2,000 and the third £1,000. Three runners-up will receive £250. The essays will be judged by a panel led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the winning entry will be published in *The Times*.

Further details can be obtained by ringing 0171-583 2000. The closing date is Friday.

The State's word is not good enough

Last month the European Court of Human Rights decided that the United Kingdom would be acting in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights were it to remove Karamjit Chahal to India, the country of which he is a citizen. The judgment will encourage British judges no longer to accept uncritically whatever they are told by the executive about the demands of national security.

The Home Secretary wished to deport Mr Chahal to India on national security grounds because of his alleged involvement in international terrorism on behalf of militant Sikh separatist groups. Mr Chahal denied having any link with terrorist activities, and claimed that if he returned to India he would suffer persecution for political reasons.

The European Court accepted that there was a real risk that Mr Chahal would be killed, or seriously injured, in India by members of the police or security forces because of his political opinions. Article 3 of the Convention prohibits torture, or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The court has previously held that Article 3 prevents a state from returning a person to another country in which such adverse treatment may be suffered.

The court decided, in Mr Chahal's case, that Article 3 is absolute, and so the United Kingdom cannot rely on its national security concerns, whether or not they are justified.

The removal of the power of a government to expel a person, whatever the danger to national security, is of fundamental significance. But of even greater practical importance are the court's findings that the United Kingdom was also in breach of the Convention by failing to adopt adequate domestic judicial procedures.

In recent years, judicial review has expanded to empower judges to consider the legality, fairness and rationality of aspects of government which, a generation ago, would have been universally acknowledged to be none of the judiciary's business. The final frontier over which the judiciary remains unwilling to pass is "national security". These words retain a mystical significance as an incantation, the utterance of which prompts our judges to assert a self-denying ordinance which deters them from assessing the propriety of executive action.

When the Crown says that a decision was taken on grounds of national security, the court will question neither the veracity nor the reasonableness of that statement. Moreover, the individual has no right to know details of the allegations if the executive asserts that such disclosure will itself harm national security by betraying confidential sources.

For these reasons, the English courts did not require the Home Secretary to produce evidence to support his assertion that Mr Chahal was a danger to national security. Because judicial review involves no consideration at all of the substance of the national security contentions advanced by the executive, the European Court held that the United Kingdom had breached Mr Chahal's Convention rights under Article 5.4 (the right to have the lawfulness of detention determined by a national court) and Article 13 (the right to an effective domestic remedy).

The court rightly recognised that there are difficulties in reconciling the demands of national security with the rights of the individual. However, as it pointed out, some judicial protection can be given without harm to national security. The court referred to the Canadian approach of conducting a private hearing from which the applicant is excluded but is represented by a security-cleared counsel appointed by the judiciary.

COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

In the United Kingdom, senior judges (who are also Privy Counsellors) perform sensitive security functions out of court, for example as the Security Service Commissioner and as the chairman of the tribunal responsible for considering complaints about the Security Service. In a judicial review involving national security, judges should require the executive to provide the court (though not the applicant) with information which would enable the judges to reach an informed conclusion on whether the decision has been made lawfully, fairly and reasonably. The defect in English law, at present, is that no judicial effort is made to consider the reasonableness and fairness of the executive's reliance on national security considerations.

The conduct of the security services may not have any resemblance to the inefficiency and abuse of power portrayed in John le Carré's latest spy novel, *The Tailor of Panama*. But when civil servants know that they will not have to justify their claims to a court, there is a real risk that decision-making will lack the care and the respect for human rights which the context requires.

Judges should continue to defer to the executive, but only after satisfying themselves that there were proper and reasonable evidential grounds for the impugned decision. Whatever threat to national security may be posed by Mr Chahal, it is no secret that his success in Strasbourg will improve English law.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

OUTS

Rights are wrong . . .

SOLICITORS don't want advocacy rights — it's official. More than 25 per cent of City law firms see no use for solicitor advocates, and more than half are against the establishment of independent ones. Seventy-five per cent of the 46 firms in a survey by the City of London Solicitors' Company said there was a case for solicitor advocates but only 13 per cent favoured in-house advocacy units.

Carol concert

CAROLS will be sung in law courts again this year to raise funds for the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice. The Treasury Singers, conducted by Edward Adams, an official in the Lord Chancellor's Department, will perform in the Royal Courts of Justice at lunchtime on December 12. A collection is made for the CAB in the RCJ, which is run as a charitable trust. The bureau now has a special project to support litigants who do not have a lawyer — in line with proposals from Lord Justice Otton. The scheme is manned partly by staff paid for by the Lord Chancellor's Department, and partly by volunteer lawyers.

Party pooper

LAW firms are already giving warnings of the perils of Christmas parties. The employment unit at Franks Charlesly & Co is telling clients to think twice about which entertainer they invite to their company's Christmas party. The advice follows the landmark ruling that a hotel group was liable for the offensive remarks the comedian Bernard Manning made to two of its waitresses during a function.

"To protect themselves against expensive claims and to help all of their staff have a good time every employer should bear this case in mind when planning its Christmas or other parties," says a bulletin issued by the London firm.

Manning: offended staff

Tough love

PARENTS who find their children seized in the trauma of a "tug of love" case can obtain advice in a new booklet launched by Gary Streeter, Minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Parents "in this traumatic situation have speedy access to the professional advice and guidance they need," he said. Details from the Child Abduction Unit: 0171-911 7047.

Growing pains

THE workload at Tower Hamlets Barristers' Chambers off Brick Lane has increased so much that the chambers has now opened an annexe. David Penry-Davey, QC, Bar chairman, said at its recent opening that there was a need for such a chambers outside the Inns of Court to improve access to justice, irrespective of caste, creed, colour or economic status. The chambers and annexe are located in a densely populated Bangladeshi community. It gives free advice on Saturday mornings.

Record time

IS THIS a record? Those who complain that solicitors are slow with wills and conveyancing might note that Edge & Ellison did its bit in a multi-million-dollar company sale in 53 hours.

Computervision Corporation, of Massachusetts, sold its Open Service Solutions division to J.F. Lehman, another American company, for £65 million cash, plus several millions more in preferred shares and warrants to buy shares.

David Hull, leader of the team at Edge & Ellison, of Birmingham, London and Leicester, said: "We received instructions at 4.30pm on the Wednesday and completed the work for the disposal of the UK interests in the division by 10pm on the Friday."

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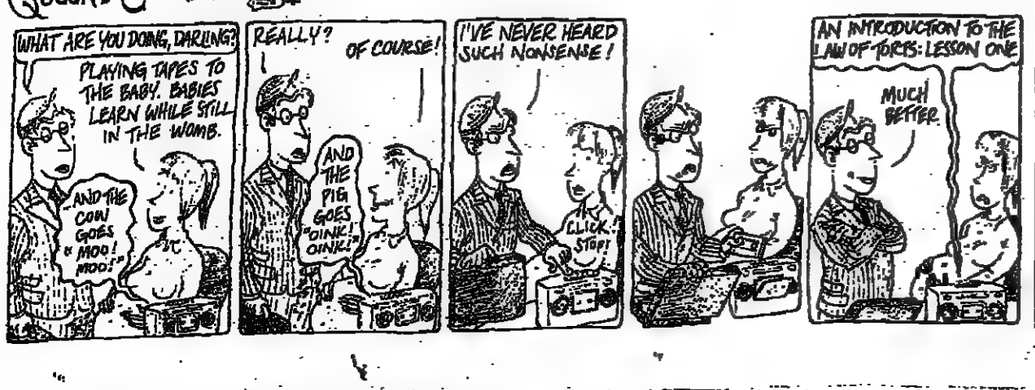

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Quality of Life

We're beginning to see the 1980s patterns repeating themselves. Candidates complain of being severely overworked. Those in the large City firms are the worst-affected. One young solicitor, fed up working from 8.00am to 8pm every day, is desperate to find a job in industry, where he will still get the quality work and the stimulation he needs, but the hours will be more congenial.

Even partners are beginning to question whether the long hours are worth the admittedly high earnings they draw. Two cases (soon to hit the legal press) concern high-profile partners at top City firms who have decided to move into commerce – one of them part-time – simply because the pressures of work were becoming intolerable. "Thirteen hours a day, seven days a week from 9am to 10pm is not worth it," says one, "even on the profit share of an equity partner."

The other partner agrees. "I don't want to work excessive hours any more. I'm looking hard at my lifestyle and trying to create a more harmonious balance."

This 'quality of life' choice, this moving into a lower gear, (so-called 'downshifting') is becoming an issue among many of our candidates. Some look to industry, others to a smaller firm or to a job outside London. All of them accept that their salaries will be reduced, sometimes substantially. A recent reduction, for instance, was from a City salary of £60,000 to a country salary of less than £30,000

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING *Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis*

Entertainment: London
Opportunity for Solr or Barr with at least 18 mths pqe to join high profile broadcasting company. Expce of copyright law and IP rights generally is essential. Opportunity to take on additional commercial work.

Engineering: South East
Solr or Barr with 3-4 yrs' commercial expce to join legal dept of international engineering co. Work will include contract negotiations, project finance and consortium arrangements. Must have commercial acumen.

Employment: South East
Recently qualified Solr to join small legal dept of rapidly growing international hi-tech co handling employment law and advocacy, and general commercial law.

Legal Assistant: Home Counties
Solr or Barr, min 3 yrs' pqe to join international software co. Expce of IT contracts essential; financial background useful. Attractive package/prospects.

Part-time: Central London
Opportunity for Solr with c. 5 yrs' pqe of gen'l corporate and commercial law to join financial organisation on a 2-3 day week basis. Work includes contract review and management of outside legal advisers.

IP/IT: City
Solr with 4-6 years' pqe which must include IP and IT to join dynamic and fast growing legal dept of financial services organisation. Excellent quality work; very attractive remuneration package.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: *Helen Mills, Alicen Shepherd*
LONDON: *David Woolfson, Simon Anderson* NORTH: *Sukh Bahra* MIDLANDS: *Nirpaha Gosrani*

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

March '97 Qualifiers: City
If your firm is weak in your chosen speciality, or does not have vacancies, we have first-rate positions in property, corporate, banking, tax and pensions.

Intellectual Property: WC2
Able and enthusiastic IP litigator with 3-4 years' experience sought by leading IP firm to handle a range of hard and soft IP with contentious bias.

Pensions: Holborn
Medium/small practice with fast growing pensions reputation seeks solr with at least 2 yrs' expce for broad range of high quality advisory work and some litigation.

Pensions Litigation: City
International firm with recognised pensions practice seeks 2-3 year qualified assistant with expce of pensions litigation or a desire to specialise in this field.

Commercial Property: City
Major practice offers 2-5 yr qual solr top quality work from institutional, retail and developer clientele second to none. Salary at top of City market rates.

Litigation Partner: WC1
Successful and profitable commercial firm in WC1 seeks established commercial litigator with strong connections to join as a partner.

Company/Commercial: South Hampshire
Key position in firm with est'd corporate practice for a c. mths-3 yrs' pqe solr. There will never be a dull moment.

Corporate Finance: Birmingham
Major player in corp fin seeks 0-5 yrs qual solr to join rapidly expanding team. Excellent property and salary.

Commercial Litigation: Manchester
Senior player with at least 5 yrs' heavyweight commercial litigation expce is now sought by major firm.

Spring '97 Qualifiers: North
Qualifying in Spring '97 and still seeking a position? Please call now to avoid missing any opportunities!

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Today this progressive firm, operating from London, Windsor and Maidenhead, continues actively to develop its position in the legal market and forecasts strong growth for 1997 and beyond.

In light of this ongoing success, Stuchbury Stone now seeks to recruit an experienced company/commercial lawyer to join its Maidenhead office. This role involves a wide range of commercial work including sales and acquisitions, franchising and all aspects of commercial agreements.

The ideal candidate will possess at least 4 years' company/commercial experience from a City or well-respected provincial practice. A following is welcomed although not essential and much more important is the desire, drive and ambition to market the firm energetically and fully participate in developing the department. In return, a highly-competitive salary is guaranteed with early partnership prospects envisaged.

To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence please telephone Niru Chandra LLB (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to her at the address below quoting reference number 34413. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Reuter Simkin and all responses received direct or from third parties will be forwarded to them.

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Please contact Stephen Watkins on 0171 430 2349 (day) or 01787 237669 (evenings/weekends) or write to him at Richard Owen & Harper, Kingsway House, 103 Kingsway, London WC2B 6QX
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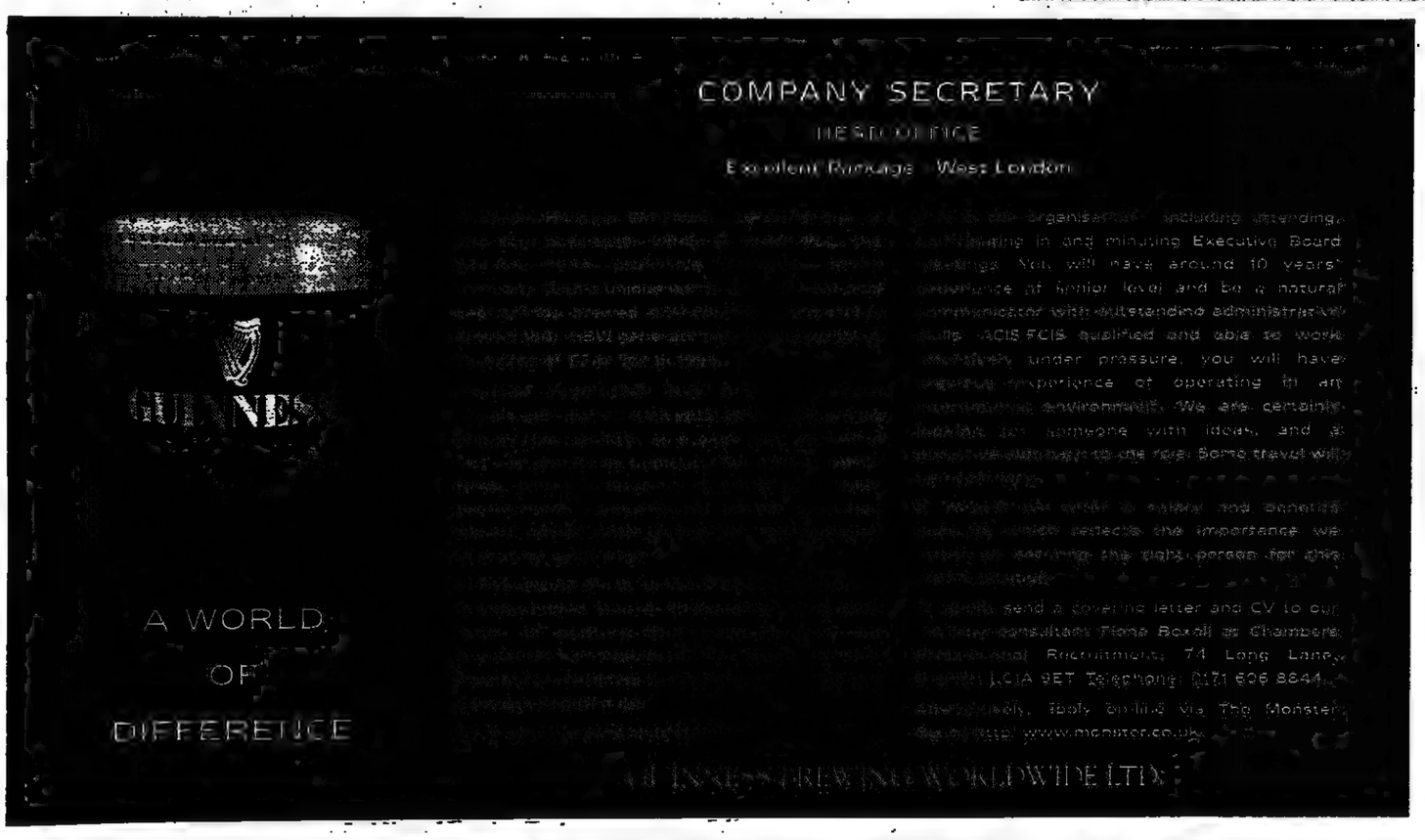

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Should Christians keep rights denied to others, asks **John Rubinstein**

Blasphemy and freedom of expression

Last week, after a six-year fight, Nigel Wingrove, the film-maker, scored an own goal for those vigorously promoting freedom of artistic expression under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The majority ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, upheld the British Board of Film Classification's (BBFC) decision to refuse a certificate for release of his 18- minute video film *Visions of Ecstasy* — on grounds, among others, that it contained blasphemous material.

The ruling came as no surprise to Mr Wingrove. So why did he bring his case? The question of whether the UK was violating the convention by resurrecting archaic blasphemy laws had already been considered by the commission in the case of *Gay News Ltd v UK* in 1982. It took the view that our blasphemy laws, and blasphemous libel in particular, were sufficiently certain and that they had as their main purpose the protection of the rights of others (albeit Christians). The case was therefore not referred to the court.

> 'Reform will come only if Parliament tackles the issue'

In Mr Wingrove's case, the commission relied on its *Gay News* decision and expressly rejected Mr Wingrove's main argument that blasphemy was too imprecise and indeterminate and that its use did not constitute a legitimate aim which justified the Government banning the video.

But the commission did distinguish his video from the film which came before the court in the case *Otto-Preminger Institut v Austria (1994)*. By 14 to two, they held that the refusal of a certificate for Mr Wingrove's video was a disproportionate interference with the right to freedom of expression, given the likely extent of distribution and public performances of a video work compared with a film. Despite the majority view of the commission on proportionality, the court maintained its non-interventionist view on blasphemy and ruled that the policing of videos in a market difficult to control should be left to national states who "are better placed than the European Court to make an assessment of a video's likely impact".

What is the result? Paradoxically, English blasphemy law has derived new vigour. And if Mr Wingrove is unwilling to risk prosecution for blasphemy before a jury, the public is not going to know whether the work had artistic merit or whether the film would outrage Christians, as the BBFC suggested.

The case was trumpeted as a challenge to blasphemy laws — but that issue was lost in 1982 when the commission blocked *Gay News's* access to the European Court, an opinion endorsed by the court in Preminger as well as Wingrove.

Reform will come only if Parliament tackles the issue of whether in a multicultural society a diminishing number of believing Christians should be afforded rights denied to many others — such as Muslims offended by Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. Or should equal protection of the law be extended to all whose sincere religious beliefs are vilified?

In the House of Lords ruling in the *Gay News* case in 1979, Lord Scarman defended blasphemy law to protect freedom of religion, its teaching and observance, under Article 9 of the convention. He said the article imposed a duty on all of us to refrain from insulting or outraging the feelings of others. Article 10 provides for the right to freedom of expression — a right which carries "duties and responsibilities" and may be subject to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and are necessary "for the prevention of disorder or crime for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputations or rights of others".

He considered that practitioners of religions other than Christianity should have parallel protection but did not say which should qualify, and English courts have been condemnatory of certain creeds considered to be exploitative cults.

Over centuries artists have depicted on canvas or on stage Christ's humiliation in multitudinous scenes of crucifixion and the descent from the Cross. Their message to Christians is to overcome that vilification and to have the strength of faith. No Christian's beliefs should be overcome by salacious or offensive films such as *Visions of Ecstasy*, which depicts St Teresa of Avila in erotic scenes with the crucified Christ, given that crucial to the story of Christ are His triumphs over vilification and ultimate humiliation in the week leading to His death on the Cross.

Instead of relying on the European Court, Mr Wingrove might have been better spending six years lobbying Parliament to enact the Law Commission's 1985 recommendation to abolish blasphemy; or to amend the Public Order Acts so that the law, through juries, should only constrain artistic (or other) expressions where they are likely to incite practitioners of religion to acts of violence or mayhem.

The author is head of the Intellectual Property and Media group of Manches & Co.

MARY EVANS

St Teresa of Avila, who is depicted in *Visions of Ecstasy*

Profits that mean a loss

PRP schemes pose a taxing problem, says **Michael Rogerson**

The Chancellor's proposals to phase out tax relief for profit-related pay (PRP) could cost some legal firms as much as £10,000 in profits per equity partner annually from January 1, 2000.

At present, PRP paid to an employee under a scheme registered by the Inland Revenue is free of income tax up to the lower limit of £4,000, or 20 per cent of the employee's annual salary.

Some legal firms have, therefore, established PRP schemes and substituted part of their employees' existing pay with PRP up to the maximum limits allowed. Because the PRP is tax-free, the staff enjoy a rise in take-home pay of up to 6 per cent, while the firm itself does not suffer any increase in its payroll costs.

The cost savings which can be achieved are often substantial and PRP schemes are becoming increasingly popular. There are now some 14,000 registered schemes in the UK covering more than 3.7 million employees.

But although the full impact of the Chancellor's proposals will not bite until 2000, staff could be taking home less pay as early as January 1, 1998, when the current £4,000 limit is halved to £2,000.

For a higher-rate taxpayer, the loss in pay will be about £67 a month and firms are likely to find they have to increase gross pay to compensate for this loss so that salaries remain competitive in the marketplace.

To compensate a higher-rate taxpayer fully will cost the firm an additional £122 a month, or almost £1,500 a year, including employers' National Insurance contributions. Even for a basic-rate taxpayer, the annual cost will be almost £700 a year.

Multiplying this by the total number of employees is a sobering experience — and there's worse to come. After January 1, 1999, tax relief declines again as the limit is halved to £1,000.

The relief will be eliminated altogether for profit periods starting on or after January 1, 2000. At this point, based on current tax rates, the additional cost will be approaching £3,000 a year for higher-rate employees and £1,400 for those paying tax at the basic rate.

Take a 60-partner firm with, say, five staff per partner, of whom two pay higher-rate tax. It could face additional payroll costs of more than £600,000 a year, or put another way, £10,000 per equity partner.

But firms without an existing PRP scheme still have time to establish one before January 1, 1998, to benefit from the current level of tax relief and make substantial savings in payroll costs during the transitional period.

The author is a partner at Grant Thornton, chartered accountants, and heads the firm's legal group.

Rules that tie you in knots

Chris Barton explains some bewildering marriage laws

LAST WEEK the General Synod of the Church of England decided to abolish the most well-known of all marriage preliminaries: the reading of the banns.

For many of the 600,000 or so who take the plunge annually, the three successive Sundays of church weddings are as traditional as those between sentence and execution. Yet as long ago as 1973, the Law Commission pointed out that hardly any of those who wed understood the system — and that their ignorance was shared by many of those who administer it.

Such nescience is unremarkable, given the bewildering abundance of routes to wedlock available under the Marriage Acts 1949-96. The next best-known preliminary is probably the least used: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Licence is obtained annually by a handful of couples from someone called the Master of Faculties, and is used to validate Anglican marriages held in such places as Oxbridge college chapels. Many people who are under the impression that they married by way of this romantic-sounding if esoteric document actually made do with a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate with Licence. This certificate circumvents the supposed policy of wedding law by allowing the ceremony to go ahead one day after it is obtained.

Since 1753, that supposed policy has been to prevent clandestine and hurried weddings. Another purpose of Lord Hardwick's Act of that year was to disallow "common law" marriages — unions created by an informal exchange of vows. Unfortunately, a large number of people suffer under the misapprehension that they are legally married to their "meaningful other" — consequently suffering disillusion on break-up when their solicitors explain: no marriage, no divorce, no financial relief.

Now that the banns are to go, thereby ruining plots as well loved as those of *Jane Eyre* and that vintage episode of *The Likely Lads*, their demise will at least be in line with the current policy of encouraging marriage by enlivening, and shortening, the ceremony.

The Marriage Act 1994 has added stately homes and football grounds to the churches, register offices, prisons and deathbeds previously permitted. And more recently, the Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Act 1996 has drastically cut the minimum number of words required in the civil vows to a mere 34 per party — though retaining the option of saying "thee" rather than "you" to one's beloved.

The author, Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University, plighted his own troth by way of a Superintendent's Certificate with Licence.

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For further information on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us please contact Andy Golding, Andrew Caulfield or Yasmin Phillips on 0171-377 0510 (0171-241 1219 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends), or write to us at: Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk Website http://www.zmb.co.uk/

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SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

CORPORATE
Leading commercial law firm requires 2-6 year qualified company/commercial solicitor to assist with the heavy workload in their London office. Candidates should have a strong corporate background and experience gained in a City firm environment. *Ref: 29929*

BANKING
Non-contentious banking lawyer sought by this City firm for a 3 month contract. Candidates should have a minimum of 3 years' pqe and will be working alongside a corporate partner on transactional issues. Immediate start. *Ref: 31977*

SECURITIES
Well-established finance house seeks an experienced banking lawyer, with securities experience, to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave, to start in December. Financial services and/or investment banking experience would be useful. *Ref: 32577*

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL
2-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join major US leisure group for 6 month contract. Work will be broad ranging, including commercial contracts, marketing, litigation, and competition law. Candidates must have good interpersonal skills, be a team player and PC literate. *Ref: 33166*

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Regional office of high profile international law firm requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister. Need has arisen due to heavy workload. Contract to start as soon as possible for 3 months plus. *Ref: 29763*

PERSONAL INJURY
3-8 year qualified solicitor required to assist major insurance company in their London office. Experience of large defendant personal injury caseload, including road traffic accidents, and employers liability necessary, plus ability to work on a completely unsupervised basis. Immediate start for 2-3 months. *Ref: 34328*

COMMERCIAL
3-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed for 1 year contract with international company in their London office. Candidates must have heavyweight in-house experience and be able to assist on a broad range of commercial matters. *Ref: 33502*

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION
Major house hold name seeks 3-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister to assist busy team. Work will be broad ranging, covering a wide variety of employment litigation. Candidates must be able to start immediately for about 3 months. *Ref: 34343*

NON FEE-EARNING/CORPORATE
City based leading UK law firm seeks 3-10 year qualified solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract. Ideally looking for experience of company/commercial matters as well as precedent drafting, and marketing. Candidates will work within the corporate department and be fully integrated into the team. *Ref: 33557*

PRIVATE CLIENT
City firm requires 3-6 year qualified solicitor to assist partner with trust and probate matters. Contract is to start as soon as possible until March 1997, on a part-time, 3 day a week basis. *Ref: 34334*

For further information please call Emma Hopkins or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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LIPSON LLOYD JONES

Edward Fennell on what English and American law firms are trying to convey about their efficiency through the offices they occupy

A message in the image

Lawyers are their clothes, their offices, their stationery. That, at least, is the view of the style guru David Stuart of the design company The Partners. There is no getting away, he says, from the link between how lawyers look and their character as professional advisers. Whether it is a matter of corporate stationery or corporate offices, an image is presented which will colour clients' (and potential clients') attitudes.

So when the American law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges launched its new office in London, its partners — recruited from "blue chip" London firms — were adamant that the design and look of the office should make a clear statement about their practice. According to the designer Katrina Kostic Samen of the architectural firm Gensler, the brief was to present a look which was fresh, young, vibrant, and avante-garde, but without being trendy. The result has been a law office which has no precedent in London — in other words, it is exactly what the partners wanted.

Ms Kostic Samen says: "The physical image of a law firm can have a huge impact on the relationship with the client. That's why we wanted to create something at Weil, Gotshal which was unique and different by using beautiful materials. There is nothing about the office which is imitation."

With so many US firms arriving in London, it is illuminating to compare styles and design philosophies. In general, London firms aim for a very modern look to blow away any suggestion that they are fuddy-duddy or rooted in the past. American firms, by contrast, are keen to counter any suggestion that they are from Hicksville by dressing the offices out with antiques and traditional trappings of the "Establishment".

But alongside the aesthetics, there are also major design differences which arise out of the way US and UK firms actually operate. The differences in the links between trainees and partners, the relationships between support staff and lawyers, and the extent to which individuals' offices are used for meetings, all shape the way law firms' premises are designed.

Ms Kostic Samen explained: "Clients of English lawyers do not penetrate the outer rim of reception area, meeting, and dining rooms, so there is often a marked difference between back and front of house. In US firms, by contrast, clients usually have to walk through the working areas to reach their lawyers' offices, so there has to be a uniformity of image."

> 'Office style can have a huge impact on the client'

One of the biggest change-drivers in law offices in recent years has been the arrival of information technology and the need for adequate cabling. Most new offices are now adequately equipped. However, there are still problems over the adoption of speculative buildings for lawyers' use. Clifford Chance has one of the grandest law offices in London but it has found difficulty in operating from a building designed originally for multi-occupation use. This has left it with a wasteful atrium area together with a floor plan ill-suited to lawyers' needs.

Keith Toms, the head of services at the firm, said: "There are constraints on our partitioning which mean that we can't get maximum value from our space. We need constant flexibility, but because of our ceiling structure, our offices tend to be slightly too big."

Recent research has shown that there is a direct correlation between utilisation of office space and profitability, so being in the wrong space can have an immediate impact on the bottom line. However, where you are positioned can be the most important factor of all.

Blake Lapthorn, one of the leading solicitors on the South Coast, ran out of patience with its collection of converted houses in town centres. Given the importance of the M27 as the major artery for mobility between Southampton, Portsmouth and Chichester, it decided to relocate, first, its commercial practice, and then its private client practice to prominent off-motorway sites.

The architecture of both offices is exactly the same, but the interior design is different. The corporate practice has an emphasis on high-tech efficiency while the private client is warmer with softer edges.

Perhaps even more important, however, the private client office is right next to a big out-of-town Tesco. Business has shot up. David Russell, the managing partner, said: "If we'd been on a remote business park, it would never have worked. The priority was to find a location where we could be close to our customers. We were fortunate in finding an ideal position."

Partners in Weil, Gotshal & Manges demanded that their offices should look "vibrant, but not trendy"

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SENIOR EMPLOYMENT — *To £Partnership*
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INSURANCE LITIGATION — *To £36,000*
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Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Tuesday 7 January 1997.

■ VISUAL ART 1

Master of ambiguous beauty: Howard Hodgkin speaks about his new Hayward show

■ VISUAL ART 2

. . . while at the ICA the cool menace of Vija Celmins's neglected work goes on display

THE TIMES ARTS

■ TOMORROW

Encore for a veteran of the avant-garde: the music of György Ligeti comes to the South Bank

■ THIS WEEK

Fifty years on: the Royal Opera House launches its celebration of golden memories

Don't look at me askance

Isabel Carlisle meets Howard Hodgkin, as the Hayward mounts a retrospective of his paintings

Howard Hodgkin is one of Britain's leading artists. He represented this country at the Venice Biennale in 1984; he won the Turner Prize in 1985; he was knighted in 1992. Next year the German Government will present him with the Shakespeare Prize for German-British relations.

And yet the retrospective of his paintings that was first shown at the Metropolitan Museum in New York last autumn and which opens at the Hayward Gallery on Thursday nearly didn't come here, and Hodgkin still feels it is an uphill struggle to be a successful artist in this country.

Hodgkin, whose last big exhibition here was at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1985, is nervously waiting for the public reaction to the Hayward show. In covering the years 1975 to 1996 it leaves out most of the earlier, more obviously figurative works and looks instead at Hodgkin the fully fledged artist, with his own luscious pictorial language. The public loved it in New York but here, Hodgkin suspects, we may find that the intensity of colour distracts us from the emotions and memories that are the subject matter of his paintings.

Oddly, Hodgkin, while not thinking of his work as English, is a very English artist. His works have that special quality of English landscape painting that conjures up place and atmosphere and, as they progress into greater abstraction, emotional weather and the landscape of memory.

Like many of Hodgkin's works, *Rain in Rutland Gate* evades formal analysis. Why a central column of grey, flanked by areas of red on the one hand and green on the other, with vertical and arching brushstrokes and more densely worked and patterned areas of colour, should evoke glistening London pavements, the leaves of plane trees and a summer downpour is not easy to put into words, but it does. Hodgkin is reluctant to assist. He explains that he can't talk about his paintings, that it is impossible for him to verbalise what is visual, and that his pictures have to look after themselves. "When I paint a picture I don't know why I choose the colours; they just become necessary because of the circumstances of the painting," he says.

Although the titles that Hodgkin gives his works seem to offer a way in, they can also exclude. Because these are intimate paintings about personal experiences the viewer can be brought up short by lack of information, both visual and verbal. *Dinner in Palazzo Albrizzi*, for example, may or may not combine the sparkle of water in a Venetian canal with a green curtain and a rich red interior. If we become analytical, title plus painting can give the sensation of looking in on a rather good party but not knowing who was there, or what they were talking about, or why it was worth spying on.

Hodgkin feels that information has come between people and art in a way that it did not 50 or so years ago. He talks about the impact made on him by the exhibition of Picasso and Matisse held in the empty galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum just after the war, which had only minimal wall labels. Today, "information on labels has got longer and longer and longer". In the Tate's current exhibition of the work of the four candidates for the Turner Prize, he says, visitors have watched the videos about each artist rather than looked at the art.

"There is an immense drift away from making value judgments, because they are seen as politically incorrect," he says. "Art has been replaced by information to an extraordinary extent. It has come about because sociology [information about the society in which the work of art is made] and biography is much easier to absorb and, more importantly, much easier to present than a value judgment."

> ❛ People might not enjoy art, but they do respond to it ❜

Gut reactions to art, and connoisseurship (based on having a "good eye" rather than academic expertise) are out of vogue, he says. "People might not always enjoy works of art, or art at all, but they do respond to them. The relationship of people to art has not changed, but the responding has been interfered with. I believe that human beings respond to the physical attributes of objects in a very straightforward way. Everybody has a sense of colour, and all that good taste means is being able to open oneself to the physical attributes of art."

Hodgkin, who has his own collection of Indian paintings and lives close to the British Museum, spends a good deal of time looking at art of different cultures. It is clear to him that the way people are encouraged to make connections between objects today has more to do with information than aesthetics — "an unusable word now", he says. "When I was a child there was an influential book called *Art For Children*, by Anna M. Berry. It was divided up into sections and illustrated things that were exciting to look at: wonderful Indian paintings; paintings by Italian Futurists; and a marvellous Picasso portrait of his son. The juxtapositions of objects from different periods and cultures were partly based on 'associationism'. It was all about trying to show that art was always art."

How does our contemporary, information-based, way of looking at art affect Hodgkin himself? "The lack of value judgments makes it very difficult for artists. If you use value judgments when you look at what you've done and everybody else looking at it doesn't, it increases your isolation. I just want people to respond to my art, that's all."

● Howard Hodgkin *is at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) from Thursday to Feb 23*

GRAHAM WOOD

Howard Hodgkin: reluctant to assist people in the interpretation of his painting

GALLERIES: **Richard Cork** on a long overdue tribute to Vija Celmins

Dangerous whispering

Given the high reputation she has long enjoyed in the United States, Vija Celmins's lack of recognition elsewhere seems astonishing. More than three decades of sustained and utterly singular work are surveyed in her ICA exhibition. But this is the first retrospective she has been given anywhere in Europe, and none of her paintings, drawings or sculptures is owned by public collections either in Britain or on the Continent.

How to account for such neglect? One reason may be that Celmins has never produced much work. Quiet, painstaking and meditative, she takes her time. Even now, at the age of 58 and at the start of a European tour, she emerges from her carefully cultivated privacy with caution.

Above all, though, the work itself is the very opposite of attention-seeking. In an age of clamorous self-expression, Celmins remains content to whisper rather than shout.

Born in Latvia, Celmins lived in Germany before emigrating to America. A sharp sense of dislocation can certainly be detected in the earliest paintings on view. They were executed in a studio she occupied on Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles. The luminous immensity of the Californian coast was on hand, but Celmins behaved as if the world beyond her studio did not exist. An electric fan, marooned on an empty floor, stands expectant. But the flex trailing from its base peters out in the encircling darkness. Soon, we feel, the fan itself will no longer be discernible in the gloom.

Even the most banal implements take on an ominous meaning in these remarkable canvases. And Celmins limits herself to a palette dominated by white, black, grey and the palest of browns, as restrained as the colours displayed in the Velázquez paintings she admired so much in the Prado.

House 2 showing a home on fire; the ferocity of the flames suggests that its destruction cannot be prevented

The longer we look at these early paintings, the more unsettling they become. A hot plate, isolated near the lower edge of an otherwise deserted interior, glows with electric warmth. Its orange rings serve no apparent purpose, though. They merely burn, raising the temperature and accentuating the aridity of the featureless room around them.

When violence erupts, therefore, it almost comes as a relief. The flat, dimly-lit calmness of a typical Celmins space is suddenly invaded by a hand firing a pistol. Even here, however, fundamental information is withheld. As smoke seeps out of the gun-barrel and hangs in the air, it symbolises the mystery of an aggressive act with no visible target.

As the decade develops, her awareness of menace increases. The hand holding a gun reappears in 1965 on the detachable roof of a painted sculpture called *House 1*. Smoke fuses with clouds, and the furry interior of the building appears to offer claustrophobic protection. But in *House 2* a similar home is on fire, and the ferocity of the flames flaring from the windows suggests that its destruction cannot be prevented.

Does this obsession with danger, all the more disconcerting for being so coolly conveyed, stem from her response to contemporary life? Or can its origins be traced to a more distant period? Once Celmins starts painting close-up images of a German plane and a "flying fortress" in 1966, her preoccupation with the past becomes clear. Based on grainy photographs, like so much of her work, these spectral fighters and bombers seem to issue from childhood fears still haunting her 20 years after the War ended.

Any therapeutic release these may have given Celmins did not last long. Soon after painting a burning man as he struggles to escape from a vehicle consumed by flames, she abandoned painting altogether. The vehemence of this 1966 canvas, where greyness gives way to the rasping attack of orange and flaring yellow, seems to have precipitated a crisis.

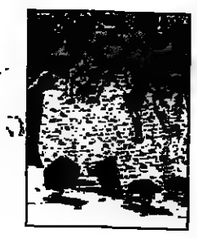
This time she turned to drawing, and used her formidable skill with the pencil to make illusionistic images of torn newspaper cuttings isolated on a plain acrylic ground. The subjects she chose — a mushroom cloud spreading over Bikini atoll, or the aftermath of Hiroshima — proved that her imagination was still possessed by apocalyptic visions. But they did not last long. By the end of the 1960s, Celmins had decided to take one step further back. Fired by newly released images from space explorations of the period, she used her ever more sophisticated handling of graphite to produce exquisite, beguiling simulations of the pitted landscapes revealed by lunar probes.

Celmins never lost her fascination with vastness. Since then, all her work has centred on the task of reconciling the immensity of the sea, the desert or the sky with the overall flatness of her picture surface.

Her abiding theme in recent years appears to be the interconnectedness of everything. The pallor and hardness of the desert drawings may at first contrast with the deep, velvety darkness of her recent night-sky pictures. But these, mesmerising, studies originate in the same feeling of awe that informs the images of sea and land.

These rapt and contemplative sky pictures are finally about the unfathomable nature of everything.

● Vija Celmins *at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until Dec 22*



■ DANCE

Steps towards reconciliation? The multi-tribal National Ballet of Rwanda makes a plea for peace

■ MUSIC

In Liverpool, Paul Daniel conducts a bitty and unsatisfactory programme with distinction

THE TIMES ARTS

■ COMEDY

Ardal O'Hanlon brings a whole bag of Irish charm and blarney to his stand-up show in London

■ OPERA

Diva plays diva: Galina Gorchakova has a night of mixed fortunes as Covent Garden's Tosca

DANCE: Throughout the hatred and genocide, the Rwandan Ballet kept its vision of harmony alive, **Nigel Williamson** reports

New hope steps from the embers

Moving in step: the dancers of the Rwandan Ballet find inspiration in their shared traditions — "In the richness of common culture must lie the seeds of peace"

The genocide in Rwanda which killed a million people in 1994 ranks perhaps only behind the Holocaust in the century's roll-call of shame. Fergal Keane, who was made journalist of the year for his coverage of the war, was acutely aware of the inability of words to describe the enormity of the horror. "Set against the evil of genocide, journalism was at best a limited vehicle of expression, at worst a crude and inadequate tool," he later wrote.

Art is also imperfectly equipped — nothing can convey suffering and misery on such a scale — but it is perhaps the best tool humanity has in its attempt to come to terms with such tragedy when words fail. The National Ballet of Rwanda lost about a dozen of its members during the war, on both sides of the tribal divide, brutally murdered by the opposing factions. Yet somehow throughout the killing the ballet kept going. The company, which includes Hutu and Tutsi dancers as well as the Batwa, the indigenous pygmies of Central Africa, felt that to give up would have been a betrayal of their murdered colleagues, an admission that the militiamen had won. Now, rising from the ashes of those dreadful times, the company is touring Europe under the name Isonga ("the point of the spear"), with a new production which arrives at the Barbican Centre in London this weekend.

Izuba ry'Amahoro (*The Peace Sun*) is a stunning production of colour, rhythm, movement and song. Unsurprisingly, it contains a strong plea for reconciliation. "We have a message of peace, that we can work in tranquillity," says Jean-Baptiste Nkulikiyinka, the artistic director who founded the ballet in 1974. "It shows people working together. You see in the production at the beginning there is animosity and then the chief says stop the fighting, come together and work with our traditions."

Nkulikiyinka, who studied anthropology and linguistics as well as dance and drama in Belgium and Zimbabwe, remained in Rwanda throughout the war, struggling to keep his artistic vision alive. "We lost a lot of people, some wonderful artists. Some of our members lost everything. One lost his entire family and the group became his family. He came to rely on us, Hutu and Tutsi alike. It was a very difficult time but what should we do? Even in war people must continue to work and to eat and this is our job, singing and dancing."

Within the group the different tribes have worked together for more than 20 years. "We never let the politics intrude into our humanity and our art. If we can live together harmoniously, united by song and dance, perhaps we can be an example," says Nkulikiyinka. "That is our theme, bring people together. We hope it can be healing, that people from whatever tribe will see it that way." When they return to Rwanda, the group are booked on a tour for Unicef, highlighting the problem of the country's many orphans of war.

The dances and music in the current production are strongly traditional but they are neither Hutu nor Tutsi, says Nkulikiyinka, who is of mixed descent. "They are both because the Banyaruanda [peoples of Rwanda] have a common culture. Hutu and Tutsi share the same language, the same religion and the same music, dances and traditions. In that richness of common culture must lie the seeds of peace."

The production, which plays for almost two hours without an interval, highlights different aspects of traditional rural life — hunting, harvesting, war, love, marriage and death. The 30-strong troupe, in colourful traditional costume, dance at times with exciting abandon, at others with moving gentleness, but always with poise and grace. Against a simple *mise en scène* which recalls a Rwandan hillside scattered with rush huts, the show reaches its climax with three dramatic pieces — first, the Intore, a fierce war dance with exotic head-dresses and proud and tempestuous stomping; then an achingly beautiful performance from the women, slow and mournful, called the Bambankanda; and finally the thunderous sound of the Ingoma, the drums of the ancient royal court.

It is an uplifting production, full of life and hope but underpinned with a sensitive understanding of the tragedy of Central Africa. There is no greater testament to the strength of the human spirit than that such beauty can come out of unimaginable horror. Audiences across Belgium and Holland have been left crying for more.

Since the company set out from Rwanda on tour, events have moved on and the refugees have started returning from the camps in Zaire. The company has followed the news from afar, with both hope and concern. Do they fear reprisals and further bloodshed when a million Hutus return to the scene of such recent bitter fighting? "We are lucky to be away from the difficulties. For the moment we dance and we sing and we will see when we return," says Nkulikiyinka. "But it must be a good thing when man goes back where he belongs."

● *The Rwandan Ballet performs at the Barbican (0171-638 8891) on Saturday at 3.30pm*

Father, dear father

Ardal O'Hanlon
Her Majesty's

AMONG the comedians who have made the transition from smoky, beery clubs to the big "comedy is the new rock'n'roll" theatre circuit, Ardal O'Hanlon must be unique. Here, after all, is a man better known as someone else, as the moronic Father Dougal Maguire in television's *Father Ted*.

So when the man stepped out on to the stage of Her Majesty's, he was faced with a mixed audience — those who were there to see Father Dougal made flesh, those who were there because they had seen him before and fancied the idea of having a laugh without the smoke and beer, and those who were Irish and flying the flag for one of their own.

All three groups must have gone away fairly satisfied. The idiot-not-so-savant that is Dougal is there, innocent eyes, childlike logic and all. The well-polished routine, so comfortable it might almost be extemporised on the spot, is there. And the Irishness is definitely there, in ramblings and non sequiturs so convincing they might have come out of a *How to be Irish — and Cute* handbook.

As he admits early on in an hour-plus stint (the second half of a show that also features the excellent Mark Doherty), he is not a hard-edged, satirical, bit-of-politics comic. No, he's an Eddie Izzard-like dealer in fantasies that sometimes just sort of stop, rather than end. But you laugh because you really want him to know you like him, and would be proud to buy him a drink.

The monologue is shot through with lines that stay in the memory — the story of how he won the "guess the age of the chicken" contest twice running ("The second year was easier"): the observation that bees embarrass easily, which is why they bash themselves against windows trying to get out of rooms ("Oh, they're all looking at me, let me out").

There's not quite enough solid stuff to keep audiences laughing for a full hour — perhaps a bit of politics really would not be such a bad idea — but O'Hanlon is something special: his own man, despite the famous alter ego.

CHRIS CAMPLING

DONALD COOPER

Galina Gorchakova (Tosca) and James Morris (Scarpia)

Doomed from the start

OPERA

Tosca
Covent Garden

THIS *Tosca* could do with sprucing up before Placido Domingo arrives next week to conduct the performance marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Covent Garden debut. That was as Cavaradossi, and the latest incumbent of the role, Keith Olsen, could have learnt a thing or two listening to Domingo over the years.

Olsen has appeared a number of times at the House, and deserves a more solid engagement in the Italian repertory. Yet he rarely managed to suggest that Cavaradossi was the right role for him, and generally had an unhappy night. The opening *Recondite armonia* was a mess and recovery was slow. The middle of the voice is powerful enough, but the top too often sounded strangulated and frayed. It needed a fork-lift truck to get up the high notes.

Galina Gorchakova's Tosca is justly famed and she began in fine style, playing the roguish actress all too ready to distract Cavaradossi from his work in church or anywhere else. The change of mood when Scarpia arrives, with ominous chords coming up from Edward Downes's orchestra, was marvellously judged. But she never managed to capitalise on this beginning. *Vissi d'arte*, which found her kneeling before the prompt box, hardly necessary in her case, was oddly unmoving and wayward at the close. The placing of the candles by Scarpia's corpse was muffed.

Otherwise her best moments came in the scenes with James Morris's solid chief of police. His baritone may have lost some of its silken sheen and his dark goatee beard hardly matches a mop of silver hair, but Morris still knows how to command the stage. Unsubtle he may be, but his directness pays off.

The minor roles were excellently played. Jeremy White (the Sacristan) and Michael Druiett (Angelotti) were the newcomers, and Robin Leggate repeated his oily *Spoletta*, a creature of the shadows sometimes obscured by the Garden's current vogue for Stygian staging. The evening's best contribution came from the orchestra, with Downes taking the opera slowly and playing for full melodramatic effect.

JOHN HIGGINS

French dressing

EARLY MUSIC

THE Ensemble Clément Janequin defied burnt-out tunnels and airline strikes to appear before an appreciative audience at the Wigmore Hall. It presented an extended but nicely varied programme of vocal and instrumental music from the first half of the 16th-century, focusing on the repertoire of the courts of Francis I and Charles V, with "battle" pieces by Janequin and others together with Mateo Flecha's *La Guerra*.

The voices were accompanied, to good effect, by pairs of lutes or guitars and bass viol, although I was less convinced by the instrumental accompaniment in the madrigalian *villancicos* by Juan Vásquez.

It was especially good to have the opportunity to hear a work by the 16th-century Catalan madrigalist Joan Brudieu, his setting of the *Seven Joys of the Virgin*, which is less Italianate than many of his madrigals, and it drew some marvellously sustained singing from Dominique Visse and his companions.

The second half of the concert began with a selection of Josquin's greatest hits which were sung with flair and expressivity as the contrasted settings demanded. The *Chansons* of Claudin de Sermisy are too rarely heard, and again were performed with great conviction. A rousing interpretation of Janequin's *La Vataille de Marignan* rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

TESS KNIGHTON

Falling short

CONCERT

RLPO / Daniel
Liverpool

PAUL DANIEL'S programme for Liverpool — with the teenage Benjamin Britten's *Quatre Chansons françaises* at the centre — looked good from a distance. On closer examination in the Philharmonic Hall, it did not work. As contrasting seascapes, the *Flying Dutchman* Overture and the *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes* might usefully be featured in the same concert — but not, as mutually exclusive operatic cultures, one after the other. With the Britten songs coming next, there were no fewer than nine pieces before the interval, and still enough time to accommodate another substantial item, together with Sibelius's Fifth Symphony, before the end of the concert.

The short measure of music was particularly disappointing in that Joan Rodgers's part in the concert was so soon over. She sang the Britten songs most attractively, illuminating the word setting with discreet but always meaningful applications of vocal colour, while Daniel and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra discovered a whole series of expressive felicities in the scoring. But, for all their evidence of youthful genius, the *Quatre Chansons françaises* are flimsy in content and would have been more effectively presented in parallel with, say, the same composer's *Les Illuminations*: that would have given the soprano soloist something to reflect her dramatic qualities as well as her sensitivity.

The size of a concert is not always determined by its length, of course. Paul Daniel's account of Sibelius's Fifth Symphony did much to compensate — not by dwelling on the work, but by presenting it with such sustained ardour that by the end there was little left of our capacity to respond. The way he handled the difficult approach to the Allegro moderato section of the first movement was characteristic. Far from treating the transition as a metrical calculation, he seemed to arrive at the tempo change by increasing the emotional pressure, so that the radiant new material made its entry as a dramatic rather than structural event.

No doubt calculation was involved but, with the RLPO always so prompt and so flexible in its reactions, the performance seemed to be spontaneous throughout.

GERALD LARNER

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BACH'S FRENCH SUITES
reviewed by Graham Sadler

CONCEIVED as an offering to his second wife, Anna Magdalena, Bach's French Suites have long endeared themselves to players, not least because they are technically easier than most of his others. And unlike, say, the French repertory, pianists have still not surrendered them to the harpsichordists. Of the 13 current recordings, six are by pianists.

Much the most idiosyncratic is Glenn Gould (Sony Classical). His technical command is undeniable, yet he can seem infuriatingly egocentric. Joanna MacGregor's recording (Collins Classis), tends towards understatement, and her excessive use of pedal causes some textures to emerge in a dreamy haze.

More persuasive is Andras Schiff (Decca), but his playing can be over-aggressive. Of the pianists, I would recommend Angela Hewitt (Hyperion) whose readings are pleasingly straightforward and free of mannerism.

But if I have to choose a single version, it must be on the harpsichord. At his best Gustav Leonhardt (RCA Victor) is magisterial. Davitt Moroney (Virgin Classics) and Ton Koopman (Erato) are thoughtful and respected players, but each is too mannered here for my taste. Moreover, Koopman's set suffers from some untidiness. By contrast, Christopher Hogwood's recording (L'Oiseau-Lyre) survives the competition well. This would be my first choice were it not for the oppressive sound of his fiery-sounding instruments, recorded too close for comfort.

The set I could most happily live with is Lars Ulrik Mortensen's (Kontrapunkt 32103/04, 2-CD): — not free of mannerism, but technically impressive, stylistically sensitive, well recorded, and with embellishments that could have sprung from Bach's fingers.

● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Berg's Wozzeck*

■ CHOICE 1

Buster Keaton's comic genius is celebrated in two London screenings

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Stephanie Cole opens in a new one-person play by Peter Shaffer

VENUE: From tonight, Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Well-performed surreal nonsense goes on stage at the BAC in *You Haven't Embraced Me Yet*

■ THEATRE 2

... while the Gate uncovers an engagingly odd fable written, unexpectedly, by Strindberg

LONDON

BUSTER KEATON: The genius of the star of silent film, whose technical virtuosity went on to influence directors such as Woody Allen, is celebrated with the screening of *Steamboat Bill Jnr* and *Sherlock Junior*. These two classic films of the 1920s will be shown with new scores by Paul Robinson, played by the Harmonia Band.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm.

THE LEARNED LADIES: Steven Pimlott's amusing and elegantly acted production of Molière. With Caroline Blakiston and Roger Allam
Barbican Pit, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then tomorrow and Thurs, 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm. In rep

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC: Yuri Temirkanov conducts the orchestra in a concert for children of all ages. The programme begins with Ravel's *Mother Goose* and includes Dukas's *Jeux d'enfants*, Fauré's *Dolly Suite*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Dukas and Ravel's *La Valse*.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. [S]

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Gillies Havergal directs Rachel Pitman as Dorothy, moving from black and white to full colour as she sets off to find **The Wizard of Oz**. All the songs of the film included.
Citizens', Gorbals (0141-429 0022). Opens Dec 3, 2pm. Then Tue-Sat, 2pm, and other perfs at various times, 10am, 5pm, 7pm, 8pm. Until January 18.

GUILDFORD: Stephanie Cole, whose television work includes *Tenko* and *Waiting for God*, stars in Peter Shaffer's intriguing new play for one actor, **Whom Do I Have the Honour of Addressing?** Directed by Bill Bryden.
Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (01483 440000). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

NEWCASTLE: The arts and industry partnership of the London Symphony Orchestra and Shell enters its 21st anniversary season with the 1996 **Shell LSO National Tour**. The concerts, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, include James MacMillan's composition for cor anglais, *The World's Ransoming* (soloist Christine Pendrill), Beethoven's magnificent Fifth Symphony and Schumann's Cello Concerto, played by Steven Isserlis.
City Hall (0191-261 2606). Tonight, 7.45pm. Next in Glasgow, Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511), tomorrow; **Aberdeen**, Music Hall (01224 641122), Thurs.

NOTTINGHAM: English National Ballet presents the magical story of **The Nutcracker**, set to Tchaikovsky's haunting and evocative music. The company will then take Ben Stevenson's production to the Festival Hall in London for the Christmas season, with performances from December 18 to January 10.
Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square (0115-948 2626). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Fri and Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Bankides: Stephanie Carlton Smith: glasswork (0171-357 0665) ... **British Museum:** Mysteries of Ancient China (0171-636 1555) ... **Festival Hall:** Contemporary Art Society Market (0171-960 4242) ... **The Gallery in Cork Street:** Karl Ghattas: Images of God (0171-287 8408) ... **Gaddys Museum:** Christmas Past (0171-729 9693) ... **Jill George:** Chris Orr; Dale Devereux Barker (0171-439 7319) ... **Leighton House:** Silver to dine for! (0171-602 3316) ... **The October:** Aboriginal Artists (0171-242 7367) ... **Royal College of Art:** "Kensington Gore" (0171-590 4444) ... **Stern Art Dealers:** Ludovic-Rodo Pissarro Retrospective (0171-229 6187) ... **Tate:** The 1996 Turner Prize Exhibition (0171-887 8000)

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
[S] Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

[S] **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.** The Christmas shows at this theatre are among the very best in the country. Laurence Boswell directs this year's, with marionettes and automata stalking the Beast's palace.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Now previewing, various times. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then at various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm.

□ **BOB KINGDOM:** The man of several faces returns with his two one-man shows in repertoire: *Dylan Thomas: Return Journey*, previews begin tonight, 8pm; opens Dec 5, 4.30pm. *The Truman Capote Talk Show*, previews begin tomorrow, 8pm; opens Dec 5, 7.30pm. In rep Mon-Sat, 8pm. Both shows performed on Dec 26 and Jan 2, 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Until January 11.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 8701). [S]

□ **LE CERCLE WYTHALE:** Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Thiérrée return with their strange and dreamlike evocation of the arts of circus.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, EC4 (0171-236 5211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sun, 4pm. Also perfs on Dec 23, 30, 7.30pm, and mats on Dec 24, 26, 31, Jan 1, 4pm. Until January 12.

□ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD:** Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **DICK DAREDEVIL:** Action hero of 1944 radio comes to life in the London of doodle-bugs and jitterbugs. Musical fantasy from Phil Willmott's Steam Industry, set in wartime Fitzrovia.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 6, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sun, 7.30pm. Until January 18.

■ **FAMILY CIRCLES:** Sam Walters directs a surprisingly forgotten Ayckbourn, with Mark Kingston and Auriol Smith playing the parents of three daughters attached to different men in each act.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (Dec 19, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23), 2.30pm; Fri (Dec 27, Jan 3), 4pm; Sat 4pm. Until February 15

□ **THE RUN:** Greenwich Studio Theatre in Exile revives Margaret Forsyth's impressive production of Diderot's study of pain and passion behind the convent walls.
BAC, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 5.30pm. Until December 6

□ **SCROOGE:** Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title role in the Leslie Bricusse musical.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-636 2295). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

[S] **WAR AND PEACE:** Shared Experience's treatment of Tolstoy's novel tells the story but forfeits the feel and context.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Last performances tonight and tomorrow, 6.30pm, Thurs, noon and 6.30pm. In rep. [S]

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800)
[S] **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072)
□ **An Ideal Husband:** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ... □ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... [S] **Les Miserables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) [S] **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... □ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) [S] **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ... [S] **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS (15): A good cast wasted in a tired tale of male fellowship. With Matt Dillon, Timothy Hutton and Lina Thurman. Director, Ted Demme.
Odeons: Kensington (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Richmond** (0181-332 0000) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

LE BONHEUR (15): Broad comedy about domestic woes and French lifestyles, with Michel Serrault, Sabine Azéma and, briefly, Eric Cantona.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

CRIMETIME (18): Heavy thriller about a television crime re-enactment programme, with Stephen Baldwin.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

◆ **DRACULA: DEAD AND LOVING IT** (PG): Heavy-handed Mel Brooks spoof, with Leslie Nielsen as an accident-prone Dracula.
UCI Whiteleys [S] (0990 888990) **Virgin: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FEAR** (18): Psychopathic teenager makes life hell in Seattle. Unnecessary thriller, directed by James Foley, with Mark Wahlberg and Reese Witherspoon.
Plaza (0800-888 597) **Virgin Trocadero** [S] (0171-434 0031)

I SHOT ANDY WARHOL (18): Mary Harron's incisive portrait of Valerie Solanas and the Warhol circus, with a wonderful performance from Lili Taylor.
Gate (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT** (18): Preposterous, hard-driven action movie, with Geena Davis as an amnesiac government assassin.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426-915 574) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (U): And cinema edition of the Royal Shakespeare Company's recent production, directed by Adrian Noble.
Barbican Cinema (0171-638 8891)

◆ **THE VAN** (15): Fun and games with a burger van during the 1990 World Cup. Strident version of Roddy Doyle's novel, with Colm Meaney and Donal O'Kelly. Director, Stephen Frears.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 121) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (0990 888990) **Virgin: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** [S] (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

GABBEH: Beautiful, poetic Iranian film about nomadic carpet weavers. Director, Mohsen Makhmalbaf.
ICA [S] (0171-930 3647)

◆ **MICHAEL COLLINS** (15): Action ousts politics in Neil Jordan's epic. With Liam Neeson as the Irish revolutionary.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 121) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (0990 888990) **Virgin: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** [S] (0171-437 4343)

◆ **MR RELIABLE** (15): Petty criminal becomes folk hero in late-1960s Sydney. Engaging Aussie comedy with Colin Friels and Jacqueline McKenzie.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** [S] (0171-638 8891) **Plaza** [S] (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** [S] (0990 888990) **Warner** [S] (0171-437 4343)

THEATRE: A bizarre story of incest and idiocy; and a charming *fin de siècle* tale

Nursery crimes

It is not just the name of this company, Told By An Idiot, but the absurdity of the scenario that sharpens your expectations. The stage is impaled by a metal spiral staircase on which sits a small velvet tent. A podgy young man comes on, switches on some fairy lights and suddenly you realise you are in a shabby cabaret club, albeit one that has more hope of selling Scottish meat pies than tickets.

What follows perhaps ought to be painted rather than performed, given that it would make more abstract sense on a canvas than it does visual sense on a stage. The young man, Jimmy (Paul Hunter), is joined by his twin sister Lily (Hayley Carmichael). They "*shoot*" *each other with teapots*, chase phantom rats around the club's drains, and in a bedtime ritual that involves bleating like goats and hooting like monkeys, they mate in the tent.

Then a sexy violinist, Natalie (Eva Marie Bryer), charges precariously down the steps of the auditorium dragging a shopping trolley behind her. She plays her instrument beautifully, wears Madonna-like bra and corsets, and she and Jimmy fall in love. The rest of this well-performed nonsense is Lily's subsequent revenge, which involves a great deal of rat poison, and several uncontextualised cabaret numbers for the club audience (us, I suppose).

But rather than subvert the adult way we tend to think about the clichéd love triangle, the relentless childish interplay between the characters opens yawning gaps of banality and boredom. The actors nobly try to fill these by dashing frantically around the stage, and by trying to create small chemical moments of interaction where things are felt rather than said.

The little sense that is spoken is flogged until it becomes senseless. "Natalie, you've got lovely breasts. I hope you don't mind me saying so?" says

You Haven't Embraced Me Yet
BAC, Battersea

Jimmy ad infinitum. She does have lovely breasts, and no she does not mind. In fact, she uses it as proof positive that Jimmy loves her, which he does, but he also loves Lily.

The most frustrating thing about John Wright's production is that so much obvious physical skill and energy can add up to so little. In the hour and 40 minutes it takes to draw the threads together to create a single tingling moment of dark pathos, our interest has already had a pint in the bar and is halfway home. This is the fate, ultimately, of a play that tries to scramble by on sheer absurdity. It offers us little by way of cabaret and less by way of story.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

MARILYN KINGWILL

Three sides to the story: Hayley Carmichael, Paul Hunter and Eva Marie Bryer

Fairytale love among the archetypes

Swanwhite
Gate

THIS charmingly peculiar fairytale shows how much there is of Strindberg that most of us know absolutely nothing about. The wife-taming Strindberg, yes, or rather the would-be wife-tamer; the dramatist of terrible family life, of lives unconvincingly redeemed by suffering, and plenty of lives not so redeemed; of strife under the Vasa kings (not that we are given many opportunities to see these).

Now that Timothy Walker has directed what is thought to be the British premiere of this full-length 1901 play written by, you might think, Hans Christian Strindberg, its characters of stern father, cruel stepmother, trusting maiden and loving prince obviously emerge from the same brainbox. But even if the simple starkness of the tale is what might be expected, the fact that he is telling it at all remains a surprise.

I first became aware of Walker when he played an unforgettably fawning and grubby clerk in Cheek by Jowl's sublimely funny *A Family Affair* eight years ago. Though I ought to know better, this is the image that has unfairly hung about him in my mind and can now be replaced, or at least joined, by that of someone who has managed to create, on his directorial debut, a passionate tale of redemptive love among the archetypes that, against so many odds, holds the stage.

More than simply offering a fascinating glimpse of *fin de siècle* drama as written at the end of the last *siècle*, the play provides its cast with vivid characters to create and a language to do so that is certainly flowery but reminiscent of meadows and medieval gardens rather than the hothouse. Gregory Motton's translation serves his author well.

Young Swanwhite's father must set off for battle — "Farewell, my great war hero!" — and she is left to the mercy of the stepmother (Richenda Carey, wicked in rustling black velvet). A prince comes courting on behalf of a sottish king, and true love blossoms. The Green Gardener sows discord, horrid things happen in the Blue Tower; fire rages, seas pound, a brace of dead mothers bring blessings. It could all be perfectly absurd but isn't, because of the cast's convincing habitation of their roles.

Jules Melvin projects gravity and innocence without being mawkish; her wobbly gait at the start is like a bird, of course, but also suggests an enthusiastic, two-legged, newborn lamb. Her young prince, Jason Morell, declares his feelings in a most expressive, gently passionate voice, and they play their love scenes (and their show of discord) with stirring conviction.

On Gemma Fripp's set, with its sense that menace lurks in the shadows, the three candle-holding servants look as if they have stepped from an 1890s children's book. Apt image for Strindberg's dip into the pools of myth.

JEREMY KINGSTON

هكذا من الاصل

RACING: IRISH CHALLENGERS RENEW RIVALRY IN VALUABLE TINGLE CREEK CHASE

Sound Man targets Sandown

By Our Racing Staff

SOUND MAN and Klairon Davis, regular adversaries in the top two-mile steeplechases in recent seasons, are likely to meet again in the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy Chase at Sandown on Saturday. Sound Man seeks his second successive victory in the race, having overcome Storm Alert by five lengths last year.

They are among eight acceptors for the £50,000-added contest. The two Irish challengers face a six-strong home team in which two trainers, David Nicholson and Charlie Brooks, are doubly represented. Nicholson can call upon Viking Flagship and Storm Alert, while Brooks has Double Symphony and Sound Reveille at his command. Ask Toru, an impressive winner at Newbury last Saturday, and Lord Dorcet complete the entries.

Although Klairon Davis, trained by Arthur Moore, and Sound Man, from the Edward O'Grady stable, add significantly to the interest in the race, neither has made an auspicious start to the season. Klairon Davis began the term with a defeat, as 3-1 on favourite, by Fiftysevenchannels at Leopardstown, while Sound Man, as the 4-1 on market leader, was beaten by Anabatic at Navan.

On the same programme, the William Hill Handicap Hurdle has drawn 24 entries in search of a first prize in excess of £34,000. Simon Dow's Chief's Song, the winner last season, is among the acceptors, although much attention will focus on the Tim Forster-trained Teinein, an impressive winner of his last two starts.

At Chepstow on Saturday, the feature race is the Rehearsal Chase over three miles. Last year's renewal attracted just three runners, with Grange Brake comfortably beating Bradbury Star, but, although both feature among the entries again, the field has a far more competitive look this time round.

Mr Mulligan, one of last season's top novices, finishing second to Nahthen Lad on his final start in the Sun Alliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, is due to make his seasonal reappearance. His regular rider, Richard Johnson, has a broken collar-bone, and Noel Chance, the gelding's trainer, is hoping to book Mick Fitzgerald for the ride.

Chance said: "He's in great shape and I couldn't be happier. The race will do him good, but he's as fit as I can get him on the gallops."

David Nicholson's Billygoat Gruff was a late withdrawal from the Hennessy last Saturday because of the unsuitably fast ground, but should have no problems on that score at Chepstow, while Jodami, the 1993 Gold Cup winner, is also among the entries.

Although the domestic Flat season is coming to a sedate conclusion, there remains one notable prize for which to play. The £50,000-added Bass Wulfrun Stakes, a listed race contested on the all-weather surface at Wolverhampton on Saturday, has drawn a field rarely seen at this time of year.

John Gosden's entry Decorated Hero catches the eye. The winner of the Tote Festival Handicap under top weight at Ascot in September, he has since won in France. David Loder, successful with Prince Of Andros last term, has entered Ground Game and Nijo. Prince Of Andros, now with Chris Wall, is also among the acceptors.

☐ Norman Williamson gave up four rides at Kelso yesterday as he was still sore after his fall on Challenger Du Luc in the Hennessy at Newbury.

Julian Muscat, of The Times, was shortlisted for the Racing Journalist Of The Year award, presented in London yesterday. The award, won last year by Richard Evans, The Times racing correspondent, went to David Ashforth of The Sporting Life.

IAN STEWART

Old adversaries Klairon Davis, nearside, and Sound Man meet again in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on Saturday

[illegible]

Nap: STORMY PASSAGE
(1.50 Newton Abbot)
Next best: Niki Dee
(3.00 Newcastle)

[illegible] MEETINGS

Kelso

Going: good, good to firm in places

12.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, MISTER ROSS (A S Smith, 25-1); 2, Shinerolla (D Parker, 6-1); 3, King Pin (R Supple, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Duraid (4th), 3 In Good Faith (f), 12 Calder King (6th), 20 Bill's Pride (5th), Nizaal, 25 Kierchem, 100 Jalmaid, Obvious Risk, Political Bill, 200 Greek Gold, Royal Palm (ur), 500 Bark. 15 ran. 7l, 3l, 6l, 11l, 4l. J Johnson at Crook. Tote: £26.70; £4.20, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £102.80. Trio: £113.20. CSF: £164.77.

1.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, DANA POINT (R Guest, 5-2 fav); 2, Malta Man (A S Smith, 16-1); 3, Nick Ross (K Johnson, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 3 Dell Piero (6th), 6 Kinemartyrs Girl, 12 Desert Devil, 20 Dr Edgar, 25 Sunny Leith, 33 Drakewrath (5th), 40 Percy Parrot, 50 Jarrow, 100 Doubling Dice (4th), Glint Of Ayr (f), Regal Domain (pu), Super Guy. 15 ran. 4l, 10l, 2½l, ½l, 7l. Mrs S Smith at Bingley. Tote: £4.20; £1.30, £5.80, £1.60. DF: £26.60. Trio: £76.30. CSF: £36.22.

1.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, SEEKING GOLD (B Storey, 10-1); 2, Winter Belle (A Dobbin, 7-2); 3, Tighter Budget (M Moloney, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Tough Test (f), 7 Monksaan (4th), 14 Aristodemus (f), 50 Bosworth Field (pu), Strongalong (f). 8 ran. NR: Celtic Giant, Crown Equerry, Kings Sermon, Miss Colleen, Sidedrift. 6l, 21l, 30l. J Barclay at Leslie. Tote: £8.90; £2.60, £2.80, £1.30. DF: £21.70. Trio: £24.70. CSF: £41.88.

2.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, STASH THE CASH (R Garritty, 8-11 fav); 2, Mr Kalsall (A Dobbin, 11-4); 3, Coqui Lane (T Reed, 7-2). 3 ran. Hd, 24l. M Hammond. Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.72.

2.30 (3m 4f ch) 1, SEVEN TOWERS (P Niven, 11-4 fav); 2, Mony-Skip (R Guest, 3-1); 3, Westwell Boy (R Supple, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Kilcolgan (f), 5 Pims Gunner (4th), 8 Aly Daley (5th), 50 Gale Water (6th). 7 ran. NR: Wheat Feilie. Hd, 4l, 1½l, 21l, 7l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £3.10; £2.80, £1.60. DF: £8.10. CSF: £11.11. Tricast: £37.52.

3.00 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, LOCHNAGRAIN (P Niven, 5-2 fav); 2, Trap Dancer (A Dobbin, 11-4); 3, Trump (D Parker, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Nicholas Plant (5th), 6 Tallywagger (6th), 14 Dig Deeper (4th), 16 D'Arblay Street. 7 ran. 8l, 1½l, 11l, 5l, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £4.00. CSF: £9.27.

3.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, PHARMISTICE (Mr C Wilson, 25-1); 2, Cash Box (Mr C Mulhall, 11-2); 3, Black Ice (Mr W Burnell, 6-1). *ALSO RAN, 5-2 fav Kasirama (pu), 7-2* Cheater (5th), 7 The Next Waltz (6th), 8 Crashballoo, 10 Nenagh Gunner, 33 La Riviera, 40 Lyford Cay (pu), 50 Allcharger (pu), 66 More Champagne (4th), Woodstock Lodge, 100 Marks Refrain. 14 ran. 1¼l, 8l, 1l, hd, 8l. Mrs A Swinbank at Richmond. Tote: £30.90; £6.10, £2.90, £1.40. DF: £138.60. Trio: £241.60. CSF: £156.53.

Placepot: £192.20. Quadpot: £13.50.

Wincanton

Going: good to firm

1.20 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Galatasori Jane (L Cummins, 14-1); 2, Sipmatic (3-1); 3, Another Cockpit (4-1). Kilmington 7-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Dingle Wood, Lauren's Treasure, Red Bronze. 8l, 4l. P Nicholls. Tote: £23.10; £3.30, £1.80, £1.60. DF: £247.40. Trio: £32.40. CSF: £56.[illegible]

1.50 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Badastan (G Tormey, 2-1 fav); 2, Price's Hill (4-1) Only two finished. 4 ran. 2l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.40. DF: £4.30. CSF: £8.41

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Lady Magnum (P Hide, 16-1); 2, Always Happy (8-11 fav); 3, Stonecutter (8-1). 9 ran. NR: Cointosser. 4l, 7l. J Neville. Tote: £15.50; £6.10, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £14.60. Trio: £36.30. CSF: £20.85.

2.50 (2m 5f ch) 1, Too Plush (L Harvey, 5-2); 2, Five To Seven (2-1 fav); 3, The Mine Captain (5-2) 4 ran. NR: Maestro Paul. Dist: 3l. A Turnell. Tote: £2.70. DF: £9.70 CSF: £7.40.

3.20 (2m ch) 1, Second Call (A P McCoy, 1-2 fav); 2, Josifina (9-2); 3, Koo's Promise (12-1). 8 ran. 5l, 2l. T Forster. Tote: £1.50; £1.40, £2.00. DF: £3.20. CSF: £3.75.

3.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, General Mouktar (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav), 2, Morstock (6-1); 3, Silver Standard (2-1). 8 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.50; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £4.60. CSF: £11.78.

Placepot: £127.30. Quadpot: £16.10.

Worcester

Going: good to soft

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, Melstock Meggie (W Marston, 3-1); 2, Moor Hall Lady (6-1); 3, Slippery Fin (25-1). Gloriana 9-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Steamburd. 3l, 3l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £13.20. Trio: £72.20. CSF: £20.61.

1.10 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Pharanear (A Maguire, 5-1); 2, Treasure Again (11-4 fav); 3, Three Philosophers (6-1) 17 ran. NR: Breath Of Scandal. Nk, 5l. D Nicholson. Tote: £5.20; £1.20, £2.40, £2.10. DF: £7.50. Trio: £18.40. CSF £19.38.

1.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Big Strand (D Walsh, 5-1); 2, Reaganesque (8-1); 3, Mr Snaggle (5-1). Glistening Dawn 4-1 fav. 9 ran. 4l, 18l. M Pipe. Tote: £6.60; £3.00, £2.00, £1.20. DF: £21.90. Trio: £87.20. CSF: £32.50. Tricast: £144.08.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, Mister Oddy (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1); 2, Thumbs Up (6-1); 3, Random Assault (4-1). Newlands-General, Seek The Faith 9-4 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Konvekta King. 6l, 8l. J King. Tote: £10.60; £3.70, £2.70. DF: £20.70. CSF: £44.13.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Forest Ivory (A Maguire, Evens fav); 2, Dantes Cavalier (3-1); 3, Aut Even (16-1). 22 ran. 2½l, 10l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.00; £1.50, £1.10, £5.60. DF: £4.70 Trio: £56.40 CSF £5.42.

3.10 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Lord Of The West (A Maguire, 8-2), 2, Eastern River (7-4 fav); 3, Hangover (20-1). 9 ran. 1l, 11l. J J O'Neill. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £1.30, £3.60 DF: £2.90 Trio: £96.20. CSF: £7.31 Tricast: £63.77

3.40 (2m flat) 1, Billingsgate (N Wilmington, 50-1), 2, Dark Orchard (33-1); 3, Ardrina (3-1 fav) 20 ran. 4l, 12l. D Chesney. Tote: £31.30; £9.70, £11.40, £1.70 DF: £420.90. Trio: not won (pool of £242.59 carried forward to 2.00 at *Newcastle today*). CSF: £1,023.06

Jackpot: £15,666.30 (0.1 winning tickets. Pool of £10,858.73 carried forward to Newcastle today).

Placepot: £125.00. Quadpot: £20.80.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

12.30 Triennium
1.00 KILDRUMMY CASTLE (nap)
1.30 Political Tower
2.00 Cypress Avenue
2.30 Act The Wag
3.00 Niki Dee
3.30 Meadow Hymn

The Times Private Handicapper's top *rating:* 2.00 INN AT THE TOP.

GUIDE TO [illegible]

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM, GOOD IN PLACES — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.30 LEVY BOARD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,285: 2m) (8 runners)

101 133/1-45 AUBURN BOY 6 (D,G) (G Shouler) M W Easterby 8-11-10 .... P Midgley 98
102 000211- BARTON HEIGHTS 241 (F,G) (Miss C Raines) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-11 M Herrington (5) 91
103 2531/ SKIDDAW SAMBA 502F (F) (J Wills) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-5 ..... C McCormack (5) —
104 0UPP-2 KEMO SABO 31 (R Nicholl) C Parker 4-10-5 .... D Parker 91
105 05113-3 MISS GREENYARDS 17 (D,F,S) (J Blacklock) A Williams 5-10-5 .... S Taylor 88
106 0FP/06-3 APPEARANCE MONEY 10 (Irish Festival Racing Club) F Murphy 5-10-1 .. F Bogle (7) —
107 324/4PP- DOON RIDGE 278 (D,G) (A Pooley) Miss L Siddall 5-10-1 .... M Newton (3) —
108 R012-45 TRIENNIUM 17 (F) (M Boyd) P Monteith 7-10-0 .... G Cahill [illegible]

BETTING: 9-4 Barton Heights, 7-2 Kemo Sabo, 5-1 Miss Greenyards, [illegible], 8-1 others

1995: STAR RAGE 5-11-13 A S Smith (7-4 fav) J Harris 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BARTON HEIGHTS beat Brownager 2l in 13-runner novice handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd). SKIDDAW SAMBA beat Oh Golden Pond 1¾l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). KEMO SABO head 2nd of 8 to Fen Terrier in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to firm). MISS GREENYARDS 10½l 3rd to Sarmatian in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good) with TRIENNIUM (3lb better off) 8½l 5th.
Selection: BARTON HEIGHTS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Camacho	4	8	50.0	N Williamson	7	21	33.3
J Jefferson	8	29	27.6	P Niven	33	127	26.0
M W Easterby	10	42	23.8	M Dwyer	10	53	18.9
Mrs M Reveley	29	132	22.0	R Garritty	9	48	18.8
J Fitzgerald	10	51	19.6	N Bentley	7	41	17.1
P Cheesbrough	12	69	17.4	T Reed	13	83	15.7

[illegible]SPECIALISTS

NEWTON ABBOT: Trainers: P Rich, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; C Brooks, 7 from 19, 36.8%; P Hobbs, 43 from 147, 29.3%; S Mellor, 3 from 11, 27.3%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 26 winners from 108 rides, 24.1%; B Fenton, 4 from 21, 19.0%; A Maguire, 13 from 76, 17.1%; M A Fitzgerald, 17 from 126, 13.5%.

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 21 winners from 85 runners, 24.7%; R Akehurst, 6 from 25, 24.0%; J Payne, 4 from 19, 21.1%; M Johnston, 44 from 215, 20.5%. Jockeys: D Holland, 22 winners from 97 rides, 22.7%; D Biggs, 32 from 183, 17.5%; Emma O'Gorman, 31 from 188, 16.5%; F Lynch, 15 from 104, 14.4%.

1.00 POLYFLOR AND NEWCASTLE FLOORING NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,537: 2m) (16 runners)

201 1. ALABANG 26 (G) (Ellis Racing Club) M Camacho 5-11-6 .... M Dwyer 97
202 EDSTONE (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 4-10-12 .... P Niven —
203 HAWK HILL BOY (C Bland) F Murtagh 5-10-12 .... A S Smith —
204 2- KILDRUMMY CASTLE 472 (The Kildrummy Pairs) J Fitzgerald 4-10-12 W Dwan 98
205 3-00354 LAUGHING FONTAINE 48 (The Laughing Stock) F Murphy 5-10-12 K Whelan —
206 003P-04 MR CHRISTIE 11 (D Maso Pavrs) Miss L Siddall 4-10-12 .... R Supple [illegible]
207 0/00 NOBLE MONARCH 20 (S Bear) J Johnson 7-10-12 .... N Williamson 81
208 0P/0F0-U PAINT YOUR WAGON 16 (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 6-10-12 ... T Reed —
209 3/500- PAPPA CHARLIE 271 (R Green) C Parker 5-10-12 .... B Storey —
210 00-03 PENTLAND SQUIRE 38 (Mrs M Dixon) J Jefferson 5-10-12 .... R Guest 82
211 0/ PRINCE OF SAINTS 612 (J Buzzeo) M Hammond 5-10-12 .... R Garritty —
212 150-5 GATTARA 38 (G) (W McKeown) W McKeown 6-10-12 .... G Cahill (3) —
213 000008- RUBISLAW 199 (Mrs K Lamb) Mrs K Lamb 4-10-12 .... Miss S Lamb (7) —
214 0 MEESONETTE 13 (Miss A Strangeway) B Ellison 4-10-7 .... B Harding —
215 0- PARRY 232 (D Woodcock) S Bell 4-10-7 .... K Johnson —
216 50 SAFETY TIP 6 (W Storey) W Storey 4-10-7 .... M Moloney —

BETTING: 5-4 Alabang, 4-1 Kildrummy Castle, 6-1 Laughing Fontaine, 8-1 Prince Of Saints, 12-1 others.

1995: TURMFOLE 4-11-7 P Niven (1-2 fav) Mrs M Reveley 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALABANG beat Shared Risk 9l in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). KILDRUMMY CASTLE 3½l 2nd to Royal Expression in juvenile hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good to firm). LAUGHING FONTAINE 31l 4th to Dignified in maiden hurdle at Navan (2m, yielding). MR CHRISTIE 8½l 4th to Tremendisto in novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). PENTLAND SQUIRE 25l 3rd to Contraflow in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). GATTARA 33l 5th of 10 to Northern Fusilier in National Hunt Flat race at Carlisle (2m 1f, good).
Selection: LAUGHING FONTAINE

1.30 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,468: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

301 411-231 POLITICAL TOWER 17 (D,F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 9-11-10 .... A Dobbin 97
302 0/641F-3 TIMBUCKTOO 68 (G,S) (Mrs P Gadd) J Oliver 9-11-0 .... B Storey —
303 U2-3113 REGAL ROMPER 17 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-11-0 .... R Guest 97
304 21552-6 ONE FOR THE POT 17 (CD,F,G,S) (P Davies) Mrs A Naughton 11-10-9 M Foster [illegible]
305 56/P/P4- NOBODYS FLAME 391 (S Pittendrigh) S Pittendrigh 8-10-0 .... G Cahill (3) 72

BETTING: 7-4 Political Tower, 2-1 Regal Romper, 3-1 Timbucktoo, 6-1 One For The Pot, 20-1 Nobodys Flame

1995: RODEO STAR 9-10-11 G McCourt (11-4) N Tinkler 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

POLITICAL TOWER beat Nordic Thorn 2½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good) with REGAL ROMPER (3lb better off) short-head 3rd and ONE FOR THE POT (3lb better off) 30l last. REGAL ROMPER beat Pagliaccio ½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, good). ONE FOR THE POT 3½l 2nd of 6 to Dear Do in handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good to soft) with POLITICAL TOWER (4lb worse off) 1l 4th.
Selection: ONE FOR THE POT

2.00 NEWCASTLE FLOORING AND HALSTEAD'S NOVICES' HURDLE
(£2,589: 2m 4f) (20 runners)

401 500/521 ANTARCTIC WIND 31 (F) (G Brown) M Hammond 6-11-5 .... R Garritty 85
402 1248-31 BEGGARS BANQUET 25 (D,F) (E Ruddock) P Beaumont 6-11-5 .. B Grattan (7) 98
403 21 *INN AT THE TOP 37 (D,G) (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 4-11-5* .... *W Fry* [illegible]
404 1 STAN'S YOUR MAN 29 (CD,F) (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-5 G Cahill (3) 81
405 2/342-1 TREMENDISTO 11 (G) (D Marshall) J Wilson 6-11-5 .... A Dobbin 94
406 00/6/ BOLD'N 1140 (N Mason) N Mason 5-10-12 .... S Haworth (7) —
407 0480-PP *BOSTON MAN 38 (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 5-10-12* .... J Callaghan —
408 2/ CLAVERING 591 (B Maguire) J Johnson 6-10-12 .... N Williamson —
409 22P-P CLONROCHE LUCKY 52 (J Wade) J Wade 8-10-12 .... F Perratt —
410 4 CYPRESS AVENUE 24 (AGB Partnership) Mrs V Ward 4-10-12 .... M Dwyer 91
411 80 GALE FORCE 17 (G Dilger) P Beaumont 5-10-12 .... R Supple —
412 0 GENERAL PARKER 22 (Miss A Smith) Miss M Milligan 5-10-12 .... A S Smith —
413 0/440B-2 JAUNTY GENERAL 18 (E Waugh) C Parker 5-10-12 .... B Storey 91
414 863333 LEAP IN THE DARK 18 (Mrs D Morris) Miss L Siddall 7-10-12 .... R Guest 80
415 F1-80 LEPTON 20 (G) (J Curtis) J Curtis 5-10-12 .... P Niven —
416 MAGIC TIMES 186F (C Grant) C Grant 5-10-12 .... *J Railton* —
417 304- MOON CASTLE 351 (Mrs V Thompson) V Thompson 8-10-12 .. Mr M Thompson —
418 P0/P0-40 POCAIRE GAOITHE 3 (D Batey) W Storey 6-10-12 .... M Moloney 82
419 0-0 LEIGHTEN LASS 25 (Mrs S Corbett) J Charlton 5-10-7 .... K Johnson —
420 *LOSTRIS 43F (K Knox) M Dods 5-10-7* .... *N Smith* —

BETTING: 3-1 Stan's Your Man, 7-1 Beggars Banquet, Tremendisto, 8-1 Inn At The Top, 10-1 others

1995: GO-INFORMAL 4-11-0 M Dwyer (11-4 fav) J Jefferson 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANTARCTIC WIND beat Trap Dancer 7l in novice *hurdle at Kelso* (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). BEGGARS BANQUET beat Ropenning 1¾l in novice hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) with LEIGHTEN LASS (7lb better off) 7th. INN AT THE TOP beat Salmon Breeze 14l in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). STAN'S YOUR MAN beat Shanoogh 3½l in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm) with LEAP IN THE DARK (7lb better off) 4l 3rd. TREMENDISTO beat Three Wild Days 6l in novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). CLAVERING 2l 2nd to Cleverhouse in National Hunt Flat race at Ayr (2m, good to firm). CYPRESS AVENUE 5½l 4th to Mywald's in *maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm).*
Selection: INN AT THE TOP (nap)

2.30 GOSFORTH PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,518: 3m) (5 runners)

501 3111P/ UNCLE DOUG 24F (C,G,S) (D Smith) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-0 .... P Niven —
502 31P352- ACT THE WAG 234 (F,G) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 7-10-4 .... M Dwyer —
503 *000101- SEDVICTA 43F (G,S) (Mary Reveley Racing Club) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-3 G Cahill (3)* [illegible]
504 2103R/4- LEADING PROSPECT 439 (G,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-0 A S Smith —
505 0/110/0 MAYBE O'GRADY 22 (G,S) (Mrs A Bell) W Cunningham 7-10-0 L McGrath (7) —

Long handicap: Leading Prospect 9-10, Maybe O Grady 9-4

BETTING: 6-4 Uncle Doug, 5-2 Sedvicta, 7-2 Act The Wag, 7-1 Leading Prospect, 12-1 Maybe O'Grady

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

UNCLE DOUG beat Golden Hello 2½l in a 15-runner juvenile hurdle at Kelso (2m, good to soft). ACT THE WAG 5l 2nd of 11 to Allo George in a handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, soft). SEDVICTA beat True Scot 3l in an 18-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, soft). MAYBE O'GRADY beat Corston Rambo neck in an 18-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, good) December 1994
Selection: ACT THE WAG

3.00 NORTHERN RACING NOVICES CHASE (£3,664: 3m) (11 runners)

601 0/PP0P-4 BROOMHILL DUKER 29 (G Bear) J Johnson 6-10-12 .... N Williamson 88
602 0/0444/ CORPORAL KIRKWOOD 552 (Gt Head House Limited) M Todhunter 6-10-12 M Dwyer —
603 U/0066- DISTILLERY HILL 202 (W Tulley) V Thompson 8-10-12 .... Mr M Thompson 83
604 562-402 FINAL BEAT 21 (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 7-10-12 .... P Niven 97
605 P/P5P66- MAJORITY MAJOR 190 (G) (J Jones) P Cheesbrough 7-10-12 .... A S Smith —
606 0/00 MONYMAX 6 (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 7-10-12 .... R Guest —
607 4032/1- NIKI DEE 403 (G) (G Dilger) P Beaumont 6-10-12 .... R Supple —
608 /2-5240 ROYAL SURPRISE 6 (B,S) (J Walby) W Reed 9-10-12 .... T Reed 86
609 2263-34 SHAWWELL 24 (F,G) (Mrs J Straker) J Charlton 9-10-12 .... B Storey [illegible]
610 U20-PR4 THE ENERGISER 21 (Exors of R Lamb) D Lamb 10-10-12 .... J Burke —
611 5034-43 TICO GOLD 6 (Miss S Turner) P Cheesbrough 8-10-12 .... G Cahill (3) 95

BETTING: 3-1 Niki Dee, 4-1 Shawwell, Final Beat, 6-1 Broomhill Duker, Tico Gold, 10-1 Distillery Hill, 12-1 others

1995: LIE DETECTOR 7-11-4 D Parker (5-2) C Parker 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BROOMHILL DUKER 13l 4th of 6 to Whitebonnet in novice chase over course and distance (good to firm). CORPORAL KIRKWOOD 14¾l 4th of 11 to Robins Pride in maiden hurdle at Cartmel (2m 1f 110yd, good). FINAL BEAT 4l 2nd of 8 to Cader Idris in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good). NIKI DEE beat Uncle Keeny 10l in handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good). ROYAL SURPRISE neck 2nd of 8 to Scalby View in novice chase at Hexham (3m 1f, good to firm). SHAWWELL 27½l 4th of 5 to Solomon's Dancer in novice chase here (2m 110yd, good to firm). TICO GOLD 12l 3rd of 12 to Chopwell Curtains in novice chase at Hexham (3m 1f, good) with ROYAL SURPRISE tailed off 7th and MONYMAX 20l 9th.
Selection: NIKI DEE

3.30 ST MODWEN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,469: 2m) (24 runners)

1 1 NUTTY SOLERA 173 (G) (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 6-11-11 .... B Storey —
2 U13- *SOUTHERN CROSS 234 (S) (ROM Racing) M W Easterby 4-11-11* P Midgley (3) —
3 BILLY BUCKSKIN (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 4-11-4 .... W Fry —
4 DEERHUNTER (Mrs A Harker) D Barker 5-11-4 .... R Marley —
5 BRESPRAY (T Hemmings) M Hammond 5-11-4 .... R Garritty —
6 *FLY EXECUTIVE (S Pittendrigh) S Pittendrigh 5-11-4* .... Mr M H Naughton (5) —
7 3 MEADOW HYMN 11 (Mrs M Nowell) J Fitzgerald 5-11-4 .... M Dwyer —
8 0- MILENBERG JOYS 272 (P Calver) P Calver 4-11-4 .... D Parker —
9 MOUBEED (J Stevenson) J Johnson 6-11-4 .... N Williamson —
10 2 MR LURPAK 138 (MD Foods Plc) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 .... P Niven —
11 0 POLITICAL MILLSTAR 17 (G Nixon) R Nixon 4-11-4 .... N Bentley —
12 REVOLT (M Easterby) T Easterby 4-11-4 .... R Guest —
13 SAM CHAMPAGNE (I Bray) T Easterby 4-11-4 .... K Whelan —
14 0 SAMITE 22 (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 5-11-4 .... N Leach —
15 5- SMIDDY LAD 421 (R Shiels) R Shiels 5-11-4 .... D Bentley —
16 TIDAL RACE (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 4-11-4 .... A Dobbin —
17 TOP ACE (G White) G White 4-11-4 .... B Harding —
18 00- ALAN'S PRIDE 201 (Mrs L McKeown) W McKeown 5-10-13 .... G Cahill (3) —
19 042- CHERRY DEE 187 (G Dilger) P Beaumont 5-10-13 .... B Grattan (7) —
20 MISS FORTINA (J Curtis) J Curtis 4-10-13 .... F Leahy (3) —
21 UTTADINI (R Fairs) W Reed 4-10-13 .... T Reed —
22 SALEM BEACH (S Marsh) M Todhunter 4-10-13 .... G Lee (3) —
23 *SANTA BARBARA (J Thompson) C Grant 5-10-13* .... R Supple —
24 WHATYERONABOUT (G Hamilton) G Moore 4-10-13 .... J Callaghan —

BETTING. 4-1 Mr Lurpak, 5-1 Meadow Hymn, 6-1 Southern Cross, 7-1 Cherry Dee, 10-1 Brespray, 12-1 Nutty Solera, Whatyeronabout, 14-1 others.

1995: UNCLE MOUSE 4-10-11 D Thomas (9-1) Miss S Hall 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

NUTTY SOLERA beat Native Baby ½l in a 17-runner National Hunt Flat race at Clonmel (2m, good). SOUTHERN CROSS 4½l 3rd of 14 to Duraid in a National Hunt Flat race at Sedgefield (2m, good to firm). MEADOW HYMN 8l 3rd of 11 to Good Vibes in a National Hunt Flat race at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). *MR LURPAK* 3/4l 2nd of 13 to Ultimate Smoothie in a National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). CHERRY DEE 4l 2nd of 16 to Ganpati in a National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to soft)
Selection: MEADOW HYMN

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

11.40 Leigh Crofter. 12.10 Paronomasia. 12.40 Enchanting Eve. 1.10 Pharly Dancer. 1.40 Dissentor. 2.10 Desert Zone. 2.40 Royal Roulette. *3.10 Manful.*

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

11.40 HAMLET HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,630: 6f) (14 runners)

1 0430 SQUIRE CORRIE 11 (F,G) D Chapman 4-9-10 .... A Culhane 5
2 0011 LEIGH CROFTER 11 (B,C,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 7-9-7 D Holland 12
3 2033 *BOLD ARISTOCRAT 4 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-6* F Lynch (3) 9
4 -500 MR FROSTY 24 (G) W Jarvis 4-9-3 .... S Sanders 1
5 0450 SUE ME 4 (B,D,S) W Muir 4-9-0 .... Dane O'Neill 4
6 0/0- BLUE DOMAIN 354J (G) R Craggs 5-8-12 .... C Teague (3) 14
7 0080 NICOPEN ROCKS 11 J Wilson 3-8-12 .... S D Williams 13
8 0060 PLUM FIRST 8 (B,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 6-8-11 .... R Lappin 7
9 0200 SCATHEBURY 11 (B,D,F,G) K Burke 3-8-7 .... G Carter 3
10 000 BLONDANE 11 S Bowring 3-8-0 .... N Adams 10
11 0-00 GREEN GOLIGHTLY 20 (B,E,D,F,S) R Flower 5-7-12 F Norton 6
12 0050 JUBA 4 *J Scargill 4-7-12* .... *N Carlisle* 2
13 0000 HONG KONG DOLLAR 21 (B) B Pearce 4-7-11 .. A Daly (5) 8
14 0006 MU-ARRIK 4 (V,D,F,G) G Oldroyd 8-7-10 .. Iona Wands (7) 11

4-1 Leigh Crofter, 6-1 Juba, 7-1 Green Golightly, 8-1 Bold Aristocrat, Squire Corrie, 10-1 Mr Frosty, Plum First, 12-1 others

12.10 WIMPEY HOMES HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,048: 1m) (16)

1 0021 DOMINO FLYER 15 (CD,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 3-9-10 D Holland 4
2 4001 ANGEL FACE 7 (G) P Evans 3-9-10 (6ex) .... A Culhane 13
3 4006 NORTH ARDAR 29 (CD,F,G) T Wall 6-9-5 .. P McCabe (3) 15
4 5060 LACHESIS 15 B Richmond 3-9-4 .... C Teague (3) 1
5 0260 ZATOPEK 87 J Cullinan 4-9-4 .... D McKeown 12
6 0030 SAMORELLE 101 M Ryan 3-9-4 .... A Clark 9
7 050- ROZEL BAY 26J M Tetston-Davies 3-9-2 .... V Slattery 11
8 -002 THREE WEEKS 15 W Muir 3-9-2 .... *Dane O'Neill* 8
9 0000 SUPER PARK 8 (V,S) J Pearce 4-9-0 .... M Wigham 3
10 0002 FIRST GOLD 4 (B,C,F,G,S) J Wharton 7-8-12 .... F Norton 6
11 2004 MEDLAND 11 (D,F,G) B McMahon 6-8-12 .... D Biggs 7
12 0000 PRUDENT PET 26 (CD,F,G) C Fairhurst 4-8-11 .. R Lappin 16
13 0000 ERIPETITE 97 (CD,G) N Bycroft 3-8-10 .... Martin Dwyer (5) 10
14 3531 SCENICRIS 33 (D,S) R Hollinshead 3-8-10 .... F Lynch (3) 5
15 4602 TAEL OF SILVER 4 (F,G) A Bailey 4-8-9 .... D Wright 14
16 0022 PARONOMASIA 14 J L Harris 4-8-6 .... S Sanders 2

7-1 Domino Flyer, 8-1 Angel Face, North Ardar, Three Weeks, Scenicris, 10-1 Tael Of Silver, First Gold, 12-1 others

12.40 *JULIUS CAESAR NURSERY HANDICAP*
(2-Y-0: £2,995: 5f) (15)

1 0310 DOMINANT AIR 7 (D,G) M Prescott 9-7 .... G Duffield 2
2 2175 *DAVIS ROCK 18 (G) W Muir 9-5* .... Dane O'Neill 12
3 2450 KUSTOM KIT XPRES 11 (B) S Bowring 9-5 .... S D Williams 11
4 1140 ENCHANTING EVE 11 (C,D,G) C Allen 9-5 Martin Dwyer (5) 9
5 3516 CALCHOU 157 (CD,G) C Fairhurst 9-1 .... R Lappin 4
6 3005 THREEPLAY 7 J Akehurst 8-12 .... M Tebbutt 13
7 3022 THE WYANDOTTE INN 4 R Hollinshead 8-12 .. F Lynch (3) 7
8 0561 SPARKLING EDGE 17 (D,F,G) C Dwyer 8-7 .. D R McCabe 15
9 4624 MOLLY MUSIC 4 (V) G Margarson 8-6 .... A Clark 8
10 3064 SODA 21 T Barron 8-5 .... D McKeown 3
11 4200 *MELBOURNE PRINCESS 26 R Whitaker 8-4* .... F Norton 5
12 6040 SUITE FACTORS 21 (D,F) K Burke 8-3 .... G Carter 14
13 0050 BARRESBO 11 (B) C Fairhurst 8-0 .... P Fessey (5) 10
14 0004 MASTER FOLEY 17 N Littmoden 7-11 .... N Carlisle 1
15 800 TRUE PERSPECTIVE 68 (B) J Balball 7-10 .... D Wright 6

6-1 The Wyandotte Inn, 7-1 Soda, 8-1 Sparkling Edge, Melbourne Princess, 10-1 Davis Rock, Dominant Air, Molly Music, 12-1 others

1.10 KING HENRY VI AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING STAKES (£2,085: 1m 6f) (15)

1 0/0- HANCOCK 7J J Hetherton 4-11-7 .... J Byrne (7) 15
2 5813 PHARLY DANCER 3 (CD,G,S) W Haigh 7-11-3 Miss Diana Jones 6
3 5215 ALL ON 46 (C,BF,G) J Hetherton 5-11-2 .... J Hetherton (7) 4
4 4345 BAHER 22J (B) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-1 .... C Wilson (5) 8
5 801- DRIMARD 383 (B,CD,G) K McAuliffe 5-11-1 .... Miss J Allison 10
6 5-56 MR BEAN 8 (C,G) K Burke 6-10-13 .... A Wintle (5) 13
7 0021 CROSS TALK 19J (D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 4-10-11 .. Miss P Jones 1
8 3842 EL NIDO 277 (CD,F,G,B) M Camacho 8-10-11 .... Miss R Clark 2
9 5034 CODE RED 11 W Muir 3-10-8 .... V Lukaniuk (5) 3
10 0 WAHAB 77 R Mann 3-10-6 .... G Woodward (7) 7
11 0/0 BURNING COST 4 R Peacock 6-10-4 .. Mrs C Peacock (7) 11
12 0020 DULLWORK 21 J Pearce 4-10-4 .... Mrs L Pearce 12
13 06- TRAUMA 19J W Turner 4-10-4 .... Mrs C Price (7) 5
14 2110 ANOTHER QUARTER 17J (G) M Chapman 3-10-3 Mrs S Bosley 14
15 50 CHANCANCOOK 49 J Eyre 3-9-13 .... Miss A Armitage (7) 9

3-2 All On, 5-1 Pharly Dancer, 6-1 Cross Talk, 8-1 El Nido, Drimard, Code Red, 10-1 Another Quarter, 12-1 others

1.40 HAMLET HANDICAP (Div II: £2,616: 6f) (13)

1 1-60 JIBEREEN 31 (D,G,S) P Howling 4-10-0 .... D Holland 3
2 3200 PRIMULA BAIRN 11 (B,G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-8 .... M Birch 1
3 0500 KLIPSPINGER 15 (CD,G) B Rothwell 3-9-7 .... J Stack 13
4 1002 *SOUPERFICIAL 36 (V,CD,F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-5* .... Kim Tinkler 9
5 2440 DISCO BOY 31 (BF,G) P Evans 6-9-0 .... G Carter 11
6 3406 MONIS 116 (V,F) J Balding 5-9-0 .... C Teague (3) 12
7 6200 TYMEERA 45 (D,F,G) B Palling 3-8-13 .... A Clark 5
8 4600 DISSENTOR 11 (B,CD,G) J Glover 4-8-11 .... S Sanders 6
9 5655 LAWSIMINA 8 Miss J Craze 3-8-4 .... S Drowne 10
10 5600 BELINDA BLUE 87 R Fahey 4-8-3 .... R Winston (7) 2
11 0041 HONEYHALL 15 (CD,G) N Bycroft 3-8-0 .. Martin Dwyer (5) 7
12 0000 AVANT HUIT 19 (B) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-0 .. Jo Hunnam (7) 8
13 3050 DOWN THE YARD 87J (D,F) M Chapman 3-7-13 .... F Norton 4

6-1 Souperficial, 7-1 Disco Boy, Honeyhall, 8-1 Primula Bairn, Klipspinger, Jibereen, Lawsimina, 10-1 others

2.10 WIMPEY HOMES HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,048: 1m) (16)

1 0100 ROAR ON TOUR 29 (B,CD,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-0 A Culhane 4
2 5006 SHERAZ 11 (CD,G) N Tinkler 4-9-12 .... G Carter 11
3 1132 DESERT ZONE 15 (CD,G,S) J A Harris 7-9-4 .... S Sanders 10
4 3-04 RUNNING GREEN 11 D Moffatt 5-9-2 .... Darren Moffatt (3) 2
5 3000 JIMJAREER 35 (C,G) J Wilson 3-9-2 .... S D Williams 15
6 6000 FORGET PARIS 111 (V) B Rothwell 3-9-2 .... J Stack 6
7 5005 EBONY BOY 11 (C,G) J Wharton 3-9-0 .... G Duffield 7
8 0400 SAPPHIRE SON 7 (G) P Clarke 4-9-0 .... Dane O'Neill 3
9 0644 PC'S CRUISER 29 (B,CD,G) J Eyre 4-9-0 .... D Holland 8
10 4505 NAUTICAL JEWEL 10J M Usher 4-8-13 .... R Perham 5
11 0406 POLAR REFRAIN 15 C Dwyer 3-8-11 .... Jo Hunnam (7) 1
12 0310 GIDDY 22 (CD,G) J Hetherton 3-8-11 .... D McKeown 14
13 00/ RUB AL KHALI 45J A Streeter 5-8-9 .... S Drowne 16
14 3004 TRULY BAY 11 T Barron 3-8-9 .... Victoria Appleby (7) 12
15 2453 YA MARHABA 15 J Payne 3-8-8 .... A McGlone 9
16 1066 FABA 29 (V,CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-6 .... C Teague (3) 13

6-1 Desert Zone, 8-1 Sheraz, Pc's Cruiser, Running Green, 10-1 Roar On Tour, *Polar Refrain, Ebony Boy, Rub Al Khali, 12-1 others.*

2.40 ANTONY & CLEOPATRA SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-0 fillies: £2,085: 1m) (11)

1 0014 COMPACT DISC 4 (C,G) M Johnston 9-0 .... D Holland 9
2 00 BELLE DANCER 220 T Wall 8-9 .... F Lynch (3) 6
3 *06 BEVELED MILL 4 P Evans 8-9* .... *G Carter* 10
4 0004 DIAMONDS ARE 4 D Thom 8-9 .... G Duffield 5
5 5526 HEAD GIRL 4 (BF) C Thornton 8-9 .... D McKeown 4
6 0004 HOPPERETTA 11 B Palling 8-9 .... A Clark 3
7 NOETIC G Holmes 8-9 .... Emma O'Gorman 2
8 0040 RACING CARR 11 T Naughton 8-9 .... J D Smith (3) 11
9 0305 ROYAL ROULETTE 11 (B) S Woods 8-9 .... C Webb (7) 7
10 6042 SILENT VALLEY 19 D Nicholls 8-9 .... M Birch 8
11 54 STAR ENTRY 17 W Jarvis 8-9 .... G Sanders 1

4-1 Compact Disc, 9-2 Silent Valley, 5-1 Star Entry, Head Girl, 6-1 Hopperetta, 10-1 Diamonds Are, Royal Roulette, 12-1 others.

3.10 KING LEAR HANDICAP (£2,398: 1m 3f) (16)

1 4320 CHEVALIER 58 I Campbell 4-10-0 .... M Wigham 11
2 0622 SHAFFISHAYES 17 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-0 A Culhane 13
3 *0147 MANFUL 38 (B,D,F,G,S) W Elsey 4-9-13* .... *G Duffield* 3
4 6011 ADAMTON 14 (F,G) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-12 .... A Clark 15
5 0031 IHTIMAAM 15 (CD,G) Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-10 .... D Holland 7
6 0160 FLOW BACK 7 (C,G) G Enright 4-9-9 .... A Daly (5) 14
7 0650 RIVER RUN 22 (F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-7 .... F Lynch (3) 8
8 2050 HORNPIPE 11 J Wharton 4-9-5 .... C Teague (3) 2
9 0500 SQUARE DEAL 11 (C,G) S Bowring 5-9-6 .... D McKeown 5
10 5005 CHILLY LAD 7 (B,C,G) M Ryan 5-9-3 .... M Baird (3) 1
11 -340 WILDFIRE 22 (CD,G,S) R Akehurst 5-9-1 .... S Sanders 12
12 *5150 BRAMBLES WAY 21J (B,F) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-1 S Copp (5)* 9
13 0083 SANDMOOR DENIM 15 (C,F,G,S) S Bowring 9-9-1 S D Williams 16
14 5000 CAROL AGAIN 25 (CD,G) N Bycroft 4-8-12 .... Martin Dwyer (5) 6
15 0/0 ACERBUS DULCIS 15 M Chapman 5-8-11 .... P McCabe (3) 10
16 3023 RASAYEL 8 (F,G) P Evans 6-8-9 .... G Carter 4

5-1 Adamton, 6-1 Manful, 7-1 Sandmoor Denim, 8-1 Shaffishayes, 10-1 Ihtimaam, Rasayel, 12-1 others.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

12.50 Royal Standard. 1.20 Poucher. 1.50 Stormy Passage. 2.20 Hawaiian Youth. 2.50 Three Saints. 3.20 Sail By The Stars.

GOING: HEAVY — SIS

12.50 KERRY LADY RIDERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,190: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1 3560 DENOMINATION 4 (F) M Pipe 4-12-0 .... Miss S Vickery 92
2 0U-1 ROYAL STANDARD 27 (V,CD,S) P Rich 9-11-8 .... Ann Stokell [illegible]
3 3025 SHIFT AGAIN 13 (B) O Sherwood 4-11-7 .... Sophie Mitchell 95
4 6/0- TAP SHOES 237 R Baker 6-10-6 .... Miss M Coombe (7) —
5 00-P NUNS LUCY 13 (B) F Jordan 5-10-0 .... Jacqui Oliver 97
6 /0P- CELTIC EMERALD 291 R Eckley 8-10-0 .... Miss C Thomas (7) —

5-4 Royal Standard, 5-2 Shift Again, Denomination, 14-1 Tap Shoes, 20-1 others

1.20 DUBLIN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,914: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1 P5-5 SORREL HILL 14 (B,G,S) P Hobbs 8-12-0 .... A P McCoy 80
2 4F-2 POUCHER 13 (S) T Forster 6-11-9 .... B Wynne [illegible]
3 5-32 AMBER SPARK 15 (BF) D Gandolfo 7-11-8 .... D Fortt (3) [illegible]
4 /3-1 WELL TIMED 14 (C,S) R Frost 6-11-7 .... B Powell 90
5 0024 ICANTELYA 42 (BF,G,S) J Mullins 7-11-2 .... P Hide 82
6 1-U5 COLETTE'S CHOICE 14 (S) G Ham 7-10-7 Mr R Thornton (5) —
7 00-6 PURBECK RAMBLER 12 G Balding 5-10-0 .... B Fenton —

7-4 Well Timed, 3-1 Poucher, 7-2 Amber Spark, 7-1 Icantelya, 8-1 others.

1.50 WEXFORD NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,222: 2m 1f) (9)

1 0830 ALL SEWN UP 19 R Baker 4-10-12 .... B Powell 70
2 50 CAPTAIN FELIX 27 A Dunn 6-10-12 .... S McNeill —
3 60 DEFENDTHEREALM 14 R Frost 5-10-12 .... Mr A Holdsworth —
4 /P5 HELLO ME MAN 14 (S) B Llewellyn 8-10-12 Mr J L Llewellyn 74
5 635 MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE 37 R Hodges 5-10-12 T Dascombe (3) —
6 SHANAGORE WARRIOR S Mellor 4-10-12 .... N Mann —
7 5-4 STORMY PASSAGE 24 P Hobbs 6-10-12 .... A Maguire [illegible]
8 28-0 DOLCE NOTTE 28 M Pipe 6-10-7 .... A P McCoy —
9 F00- ZEN OR 263 J Mullins 5-10-7 .... S Curran —

7-4 Stormy Passage, 5-2 Hello Me Man, 3-1 Dolce Notte, 8-1 Moonlight Escapade, Shanagore Warrior, 10-1 All Sewn Up, 16-1 others

2.20 CORK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,628: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 3-13 BENJAMIN LANCASTER 8 (C,D,G,S) M Griffin 12-12-0 .... M Griffiths (7) 96
2 /16- HAWAIIAN YOUTH 400 (D,F,G,S) G McCourt 8-11-13 .... A Maguire 90
3 211F NORDIC VALLEY 19 (BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-2 .. A P McCoy 91
4 4124 FENWICK 14 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-11-1 .... T Dascombe (3) [illegible]
5 6-23 *THE LANCER 34 D Gandolfo 7-10-10* .... *D Fortt (3)* [illegible]
6 /0-3 THATS THE LIFE 20 (D,F,G) T George 11-10-6 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
7 3-05 CHAIN SHOT 21 (D,F,G) J Peacock 11-10-0 .... R Bellamy —
8 5452 PRUDENT PEGGY 13 (C,S) R Frost 9-10-0 .. Mr A Holdsworth 95

5-2 The Lancer, 7-2 Prudent Peggy, 9-2 Benjamin Lancaster, 5-1 Fenwick, Nordic Valley, 7-1 Hawaiian Youth, 12-1 others.

2.50 LIMERICK HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,955: 3m 2f 110yd) (9)

1 16/ A N C EXPRESS 587 (D,S) J King 8-12-0 .... C Maude —
2 P-F5 FLORIDA SKY 24 (S) C Brooks 9-11-6 .... M Berry (7) —
3 0-32 BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 14 (B,C,S) P Nicholls 7-11-6 A P McCoy 93
4 14-5 THREE SAINTS 10 (S) T Forster 7-11-0 .... B Wynne 95
5 4-35 SHAMARPHIL 16 (C,F,S) R Alner 10-10-11 Miss S Barraclough 98
6 424- *JAILBREAKER 194 (CD,G,S) B Millman 9-10-11 D Salter (5)* 96
7 PUP- GOLDEN OPAL 187 (G,S) R Buckler 11-10-6 .... M Griffiths (7) —
8 24-4 STEEPLE JACK 27 (S) K Bishop 9-10-3 .... R Greene [illegible]
9 -UF3 COUNTRY KEEPER 14 B Ryall 8-10-0 .... G Upton 95

9-4 Bramblehill Buck, 7-2 A N C Express, 6-1 Jailbreaker, Three Saints, 7-1 Shamarphil, 8-1 Florida Sky, Steeple Jack, 12-1 others.

3.20 SLIGO HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,806: 2m 6f) (5)

1 -182 RUNAWAY PETE 12 (C,BF,F,G) M Pipe 6-12-0 .. A P McCoy 97
2 140- AMBLESIDE 236 (S) Mrs S Williams 5-11-4 .... S McNeill [illegible]
3 1P-1 SAIL BY THE STARS 28 (S) T Forster 7-10-11 .. D Gallagher 94
4 D40- KILCORAN BAY 198F (G,S) J Mullins 4-10-10 .... R Greene 93
5 U0-5 STAC-POLLAIDH 28 (F) K Bailey 6-10-0 .... W Walsh (7) 90

6-4 Sail By The Stars, 9-4 Runaway Pete, 9-2 Ambleside, 6-1 Kilcoran Bay, 10-1 Stac-Pollaidh.

FOOTBALL

England offered little comfort by Sacchi's exit

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

ENGLISH football would be heading for the mother of delusions if people misinterpreted the departure, after 53 internationals, of Italy's national coach, Arrigo Sacchi, as beneficial to the England v Italy World Cup qualifying game at Wembley on February 12.

Rather, the players of Italy, whose technical and tactical quality looked as high as anyone's during the European championship in England last summer, are likely to feel the release. Sacchi had tried to go against the instincts of Italian play. He had taken them to within one missed penalty of winning the 1994 World Cup, yet, he had repressed individualism and, it is said, that the players succeeded in spite of, rather than because of, their leader.

Why then did he last? His record of winning 34 games, drawing ten and losing only nine contradicted his habit of fiddling with the line-up while his tenure burned. He used 92 players in those games and his tinkering surely cost Italy any progress in the European championship.

They had beaten Russia at Anfield with a polished and technically proficient display. Three days later, Sacchi changed five of the team, either because he underestimated the Czech Republic, or because he felt that, with his system, players were as interchangeable as light bulbs. Whatever, they lost to the Czechs and the feeling remained that it was self-inflicted, that the coach betrayed the rhythm and trust of the team, and that, from then on, he lost the trust of the dressing-room.

He had lost the media long before that. One journalist had written: "Imagination and flair in Sacchi's Italian teams could be drowned in a glass of water. Ability to invent has become a mortal sin, every player is afraid to improvise."

When the players dropped and alienated, include Roberto Baggio, Gianluca Vialli and Guiseppe Signori, then the foes in the press attracted too many public supporters even for the articulate Sacchi to withstand.

When he made his telephone call to Raffaele Pagnozzi, the commissioner temporarily in charge of Italy's football federation, to resign on Sunday, Sacchi jumped before he was pushed. A new federation president will be elected on December 14 and Sacchi already knew that the only thing keeping him in office was the size of his salary.

Therefore, when Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister and the owner of AC

Sacchi: departure

Milan, made Sacchi an offer to return to his old club, it was one he did not, and he says could not, refuse.

Milan are losing, and Berlusconi has no patience with that. Despite castigating the media for their criticisms of Oscar Washington Tabaraz, the Uruguayan who has been Milan's coach for less than half a season, Berlusconi panicked after another defeat at Piacenza on Sunday.

"I can't say no to Berlusconi," Sacchi is reported to have said. "Milan calls me, I can only resign. Try to understand."

Understand? There are those in the federation who are ecstatic. They believe they are off the hook in not having to pay Sacchi compensation and are rid of the two men who had become, from the moment Italy dropped out of the European championship, the country's lame ducks." That day, Antonio Matarrese, then the president of the federation, had stood emotionally beside Sacchi and said: "As long as I remain president, Mr Sacchi, will also remain."

You could see from the sunken eyes of Sacchi and from the slumped shoulders of Matarrese that both suspected their time was up. The president was voted out by the summer, Sacchi lingered on.

Those who have watched and admired Italy through the years know that the quality rarely dips. Indeed, Look at the exports to England — Fabrizio Ravanelli, Gianfranco Zola, Roberto Di Matteo and Vialli. We have them because Italy has done with them, there are better players, Italian clubs believe, at home. And while they possess an enviable surfeit of riches, who can raise Italy over their threshold of neurosis, raise them and release them to perform?

The betting favours Dino Zoff, the former national goalkeeper, now the figurehead of Lazio, and Cesare Maldini, the father of Paolo, Milan and Italy's left back.

Maldini senior is primed for the succession. He has not yet had the puff of white smoke, but, as the coach to Italy's successful under-21 teams over the past five years, he has the trust of many of the squad. That, many think, is the crucial factor: trust the quality of the players, cooperate rather than order them, and Italy, next time out, will be a liberated force, which, unfortunately, will be at Wembley in February.

The tinkerer Sacchi has gone. The players, like footballers everywhere, will be anxious to impress the new ma, and given their technique, frankly Charlie Caroli could take over for February 12 and come up smiling.

DAN CURRIER

Doug Evans, of Green Bay, upends Raymont Harris as the Packers beat Chicago 28-17

Cowboys look super again

By Oliver Holt

THE National Football League (NFL) has spent much of the year rejoicing at the variety of genuine challengers for the Super Bowl at the end of next month. Thanksgiving Day last week, though, brought a familiar franchise back into the fray instead. After a season of ups and downs, Dallas Cowboys are back in the running for the big prize.

Their win over Washington Redskins at Texas Stadium not only lifted them level with their opponents at the top of the National Football Conference Eastern division, but also forced them back into contention for crucial home-field advantage in the rapidly approaching play-offs.

Like all great teams, the Cowboys, the reigning Super Bowl champions, may now be discovering their best form at the right time after a worryingly inconsistent season. The 21-10 victory over the Redskins also brought redemption for Emmitt Smith, their leading running back, who was benched in the surprise defeat last week by New York Giants. Smith ran for three touchdowns to seal the win.

Dallas, though, will have to rely on Green Bay Packers slipping up in their last three games of the season if they are to snatch home advantage throughout the play-offs. The Packers beat Chicago Bears 28-17 at Lambeau Field, with Brett Favre, their quarterback, throwing one touchdown pass amid 231 yards of completed passes.

The Packers, though, face Denver Broncos in Green Bay next Sunday, a match that could easily be a Super Bowl preview. The Broncos, the strongest American Football Conference (AFC) challenger for several years, are going from strength to strength.

Their 34-7 win over Seattle Seahawks on Sunday took their record to a league best of 12 wins and one loss and clinched the AFC Western division title and home-field advantage throughout the AFC play-offs. John Elway, their inspirational if ageing quarterback, threw two touchdown passes and ran for another to take the Broncos to their ninth consecutive victory.

Further south, Miami Dolphins' chances of making the play-offs appeared to have been dashed on Sunday when they lost to Oakland Raiders and saw their record fall to six wins and seven defeats. Their new coach, Jimmy Johnson, can at least take solace in the fact that his opening year in Florida has not been as parlous as his first 12 months in Dallas, when the Cowboys managed to lose 15 of their 16 games.

India order spinning wicket for final Test

INDIA, defeated by South African fast bowling in the second Test match in Calcutta on Sunday, have ordered a turning wicket to be prepared for the decisive final match at Kanpur. They were unhappy with the even-paced wicket at Eden Gardens, where South Africa scored an emphatic 329-run win.

India's home record of 12 wins in 17 Tests since 1990 came on wickets that aided their traditional strength in spin bowling. South Africa will be without Allan Donald, their opening bowler, in Kanpur because he has a bruised left heel and toe.

Hyman style

Swimming: Misty Hyman, 17, from Phoenix, Arizona, sliced 0.39sec off the world short-course 100 metres butterfly record to win the Canadian Open title in 58.29sec in Quebec City. She did so with an unusual technique, taking just one stroke down the first length and about four in the subsequent three lengths, spending most of her time dolphin-kicking on her side underwater.

Barker battle

Rackets: Guy Barker survived a tense struggle against his namesake, Thorrold Barker, to reach the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British Amateur Championship at Queen's Club, where he will meet Tim Cockroft, the dedicated Old Wellingtonian, who beat Charles Roberds.

Tour task

Golf: Lisa Dermott and Mae Educate, two members of the Curtis Cup-winning team this year, lead the field at the American Express European Women's Tour 72-hole qualifying school, which begins at La Manga in Spain today.

Prean fit

Table tennis: Carl Prean has been declared fit to compete in the World Grand Prix finals in Tianjin, China, starting on December 12. England's leading professional has been struggling with a wrist injury.

BOWLS

Ruff justice eliminates stalwart in a tight spot

By David Rhys Jones

MARGARET GOODWIN, from Saltash, in Cornwall, was forced to withdraw from the national indoor singles championship in Liskeard, on Sunday when she was refused permission to remove her tights.

For several years Goodwin, who suffers from atopic eczema, a non-infectious skin condition that affects her legs and feet, has been fighting the implementation of the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association (EWIBA) dress code, which requires competitors in national championships to wear shoes and tights.

This winter, ignoring the regulations, she entered the singles and won her first match. "Nobody seemed to mind that I wasn't wearing tights," Goodwin said, "but, when I reported the result to the area secretary, Midge Judd, the first thing she asked was whether I was wearing shoes and tights. I was reluctant to reply."

When Goodwin took the matter to Margaret Ruff, the secretary of the EWIBA, she was told that the match would not be taken away from her, but, if she turned up for her next round improperly dressed, the EWIBA would be forced to disqualify her.

"I had already bought some aerated shoes and I decided to have a go in some tights, at least for the start of my match against Yvonne Woodcock," she said. "Then, just before the start, Mrs Judd sat down at the end of the rink. I told her I was wearing tights, and asked her if I would be allowed to remove them if they became unbearable." Judd explained that she could not give permission for the regulations to be broken, and stated that Goodwin would automatically forfeit the game, were she to remove her tights.

"Not surprisingly, my condition worsened," Goodwin said. "I was forced to give up after almost an hour, when I was trailing 15-1."

Ruff said yesterday: "Anyone who enters our championships has to adhere to our rules, which state clearly that shoes and tights shall be worn. No variation is acceptable."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Baltimore 31 Pittsburgh 17; Carolina 24 Tampa Bay 0; Green Bay 28 Chicago 17; Indianapolis 13 Buffalo 10 (OT); Jacksonville 30 Cincinnati 27; Minnesota 41 Arizona 17; Philadelphia 24 New York Giants 0; Denver 34 Seattle 7; St Louis 26 New Orleans 10; Houston 36 New York Jets 10; Oakland 17 Miami 7; New England 45 San Diego 7.

American Conference
Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
New England	9	4	0	325	265
Buffalo	9	4	0	357	213
Indianapolis	7	6	0	282	274
Miami	6	7	0	285	266
NY Jets	1	12	0	221	369

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	299	211
Houston	7	6	0	291	254
Jacksonville	6	7	0	263	286
Cincinnati	5	8	0	299	318
Baltimore	4	9	0	320	369

Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
* Denver	12	1	0	351	159
Kansas City	9	4	0	262	230
San Diego	7	6	0	277	323
Oakland	6	7	0	274	234
Seattle	5	8	0	260	317

National Conference
Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
Philadelphia	8	5	0	305	265
Dallas	8	5	0	254	201
Washington	8	5	0	291	251
Arizona	8	7	0	348	332
NY Giants	5	8	0	300	250

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A
Green Bay	10	3	0	346	191
Minnesota	7	6	0	243	245
Chicago	5	6	0	202	245
Detroit	5	6	0	263	289
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	153	243

Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
San Francisco	9	3	0	291	186
Carolina	9	4	0	292	164
St Louis	4	9	0	246	334
Atlanta	2	10	0	224	359
New Orleans	2	11	0	184	291

* clinched division title
Not including last night's game: Atlanta v San Francisco

ATHLETICS

COSFORD: Inter-area cross-country: Senior men: 1, R Whalley (Midlands) 29min 46sec; 2, M Flint (RAF) 30:17; 3, C McGuire (Midlands) 30:31. Team: 1, Midland Counties 54pts; 2, Northern Counties 81; 3, Southern Counties 88. Senior women: 1, S Ellis (Midlands) 23:48; 2, A Joiner (Eastern Counties) 23:52; 3, P Thackery (British Universities) 24:05. Team: 1, Northern Counties 26; 2, British Universities 32; 3, Midland Counties 49.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 76 London Towers 79; Manchester 81 Sheffield 80. 7-UP Trophy: Newcastle 73 Leicester 61; Birmingham 90 Leopards 91. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Golden State 98 Portland 70; Detroit 95 Sacramento 66; Utah 96 Seattle 90; LA Lakers 104 Denver 95.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): Brisbane: Victoria 162 and 277 (W G Ayres 58, B J Hodge 51; A J Bichel 5-69); Queensland 305 and 137-2 (M L Hayden 73 not out). Queensland won by eight wickets. Adelaide: South Australia 277 and 325 (J A Brayshaw 96, G Parker 80); Western Australia 318 and 288-5 (T M Moody 89 not out). Western Australia won by five wickets. Hobart: New South Wales 403-9 dec and 225-3 dec (S Lee 101 not out, K J Roberts 54); Tasmania 327-9 dec and 288-8 (D C Boon 77, J Cox 67). Match drawn.

CURLING

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: European championships (home nations results): Men: Group A1: Scotland 7 Finland 4; Scotland 9 France 7; Scotland 8 Italy 2. Group A2: Sweden 5 England 1; England 8 Austria 3; England 8 Bulgaria 5. Group B1: Wales 8 Czech Republic 4; Wales 10 Hungary 3; Wales 11 Holland 7. Women: Group A1: Scotland 11 Russia 3; Scotland 8 Switzerland 5; Scotland 10 Sweden 2. Group A2: Norway 12 England 4; England 11 Denmark 6; Austria 12 England 5.

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: Velo Club 167 (Willington, Co Durham, 12 miles): 1, D Howard (Cleveland MBC) 54min 00sec; 2, B Wearmouth (MTS Cycle Sport) at 1:11; 3, C Featherstone (Derwentside CC) at 2:21. Spalding CC (Bourne, Lincolnshire, 12 miles): 1, D Barnett (Ace RT) 52min 38sec; 2, S Barron (VC Lincoln) at 2:30; 3, N Hay (De Montfort CC) at 3:27. Chesterfield Spire RC (Sharley Park, Clay Cross, 12 miles): 1, J Taylor (Giant-Griffshift) 49min 14sec; 2, Barnett at 33sec; 3, J Gould (Ace RT) at 2:45. Horwich CC (Leverhulme Park, Bolton, 12 miles): 1, B Green (Oldham Century RC) 58min 00sec; 2, P Evans (Harry Hall Cycles) at 2:30; 3, S Smith (Freetown-Pace) at 3:20. Didcot Phoenix (Newbury, 12 miles): 1, D Ball (VC Lincoln) 57min 58sec; 2, A Green (New Forest CC) at 6sec; 3, A Butt (Hargroves Cycles) at 12 sec. Bristol RC (Ashton Court, 13.5 miles): 1, M James (Coventry Olympic RC) 1hr 05min 00sec; 2, S Pearce (Sports Coaching) at 8:00; 3, J Wherlock (Bristol MTB) at 7:15.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Crystal Palace 2 Wimbledon 3.
WORLD CUP: Concacaf semi-final qualifying round: Group one: Costa Rica 2 United States 1. Group two: El Salvador 3 Cuba 0.
SPANISH LEAGUE: Valladolid 0 Atletic Bilbao 0.
GERMAN LEAGUE: VfB Stuttgart 1 Bayern Munich 1.
ITALIAN LEAGUE: AS Roma 0 Fiorentina 3.
ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: River Plate 5 Ferro Carril Oeste 1; Gimnasia de Jujuy 4 Banfield 1; Huracan de Corrientes 4 Newell's Old B 1; Colon 3 Gimnasia La Plata 1; Estudiantes 1 Union 0; Rosario Central 1 Huracan 1; Racing Club 4 Boca Juniors 2; Lanus 1 Independiente 2; San Lorenzo 1 Velez Sarsfield 0.
BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Cruzeiro 1 Portuguesa 0; Guarani 1 Goias 0; Atletico-PR 1 Atletico-MG 0; Palmeiras 1 Gremio 0.
AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Final, first leg: Shooting Stars (Nigeria) 2 Zamalek (Egypt) 1.
FA UMBRO TROPHY: First-round draw: Northern section: Gresley v Altrincham; Mossamba v Chorley; Workington v Bamber Bridge; Colwyn Bay v Worksop or Leicester City; Gainsborough Trinity v Bradford Park Avenue or Barrow; Knowsley or Emley v Boston Utd; Spennymoor v Bishop Auckland; Nantwich v Hednesford Town; Blyth Spartans v Buxton or Grantham; Southport v Halesowen; Hyde Utd v Bedworth; Guiseley v Telford; Kidderminster v Macclesfield; Gateshead v Runcorn; Ashton Utd v Moor Green; Stalybridge v Hallam. Southern section: Bath v Stevenage; Slough v Dorchester; Cheltenham v Dartford or Dulwich Hamlet; St Leonards Stamcroft v Cambridge City or Newport AFC; St Albans v Weymouth; Rushden & Diamonds v Farnborough; Enfield v Boreham Wood; Hastings Town v Harrow Borough or Salisbury; Wokingham v Woking; Kettering v Chelmsford; Raunds v Welling; Yeovil v Hayes; Bromsgrove v Merthyr Tydfil; Stringbourne or Yeading v Gloucester; Bromley or Worcester v Heybridge; Dover v Dagenham and Redbridge.
☐ Ties to be played on January 18 1997.

GOLF

ATALAYA PARK, Marbella, Spain: Johnnie Walker European team championship: Leading first-round scores: 139: Scotland (J Chillas 68, A Tait 71, C Ronald 72). 141: Ireland (D McGrane 71, D Mooney 74, B McGovern 70). 143: England (M Deck 75, J Furey 73, C Smalle 70); Denmark. 144: Italy, Finland. 146: Spain.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 4 Detroit 2; NY Rangers 6 Montreal 2; Philadelphia 4 Vancouver 0; San Jose 4 St Louis 3; Anaheim 4 Edmonton 2.

HOCKEY

FA CUP: Fifth-round draw: Old Loughtonians v Hounslow; Chelmsford v Canterbury; St Albans v Hampstead and Westminster; Cannock v Stourport; Surbiton v Southgate; Beeston v Reading; Lewes v Guildford; High Wycombe v Teddington.
☐ Ties to be played on February 23 1997.

RACKETS

CORRECTED RESULT: Queen's Club: Lacoste British Amateur Championship: Second round: G Barker bt T Barker 15-6, 15-8, 4-15, 15-4 (not as previously published).

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bishop's Stortford HS 19 Haberdashers' Aske's 32; Royal School Dungannon 13 Coleraine AI 8.
ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Milan 59 L'Aquila 13; Roma Olimpic 7 Treviso 32; Padova 92 Collalbro 8; San Dona 37 Rovigo 30; Catania 8 Calvisano 63; Livorno 23 Bologna 21.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Latest positions (as at 13.59GMT yesterday): Distance to Wellington: 1, Save The Children 5,011 miles; 2, Global Teamwork 5,013; 3, Motorola 5,028; 4, Group 4 5,028; 5, Concert 5,045; 6, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,060; 7, Nuclear Electric 5,079; 8, Commercial Union 5,088; 9, 3Com 5,094; 10, Ocean Rover 5,100; 11, Pause to Remember 5,102; 12, Heath Insured II 5,108; 13, Coutaulds International 5,127; 14, Time & Tide 5,133.

SKIING

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta: Women's Super-G: 1, P Wiberg (Swe) 1:22.12; 2, H Gerg (Ger) 1:22.43; 3, W Zeller-Isola (Aus) 1:22.75. Overall World Cup standings: 1, K Selbinger (Ger) 355pts; 2, Wiberg 258; 3, Gerg 205.
BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado: Men's World Cup: Slalom: 1, T Stiansen (Nor) 1:45.49; 2, T Sykora (Austria) 1:45.85; 3, T Stangassinger (Austria) 1:45.95. Leading overall standings: 1, K Aamodt (Nor) 231pts; 2, M von Grünigen (Switz) 207; 3, H Knaus (Austria) 190. World Cup standings: 1, Sykora 180; 2, Stangassinger 140; 3, Stiansen 132.

SQUASH

SANTIAGO, Spain: European Champion of Champions: Men: Semi-finals: A Gough (Wales) bt A Thorne (Eng) 9-10, 9-3, 4-9, 9-2, 9-7; N Taylor (Eng) bt L Buit (Holl) 9-2, 9-0, 9-7. Final: Taylor bt Gough 9-6, 2-9, 9-4, 9-0. Women: Semi-finals: S Horner (Eng) bt Y Atkinson (Holl) 9-4, 9-4, 9-6; S Macdie (Scot) bt C Cieslak (Fr) 9-4, 9-2, 1-9, 9-6. Final: Horner bt Macdie 9-2, 9-1, 9-3.
BOMBAY: Mahindra International: First round: R Eales (Aus) bt S Cassidy (Aus) 17-15, 14-15, 15-11, 9-15, 15-10; J Power (Can) bt A Faizy (Egypt) 15-9, 15-7, 15-1; D Harris (Eng) bt G Ryding (Can) 12-15, 15-5, 15-13, 15-3; P Gregory (Gr) bt A Singh (India) 15-13, 15-12, 15-12; O El Borolossey (Egypt) bt B Martin (Aus) 15-5, 15-2, 15-9; K Cairns (Eng) bt P Johnson (Eng) 16-13, 15-6, 15-12; C Wagstaff (SA) bt C Rothfuss (Aus) 15-9, 15-12, 17-15; D Ryan (Ire) bt D Janson (Aus) 15-10, 15-6, 15-11; S Perry (Eng) bt A Bahl (India) 15-6, 15-4, 15-9; A Wagih (Egypt) bt A Hill (Aus) 15-13, 17-14, 1-0 ret; Zubair Jahan (Pak) bt J Raumolin (Fin) 15-7, 9-15, 15-11, 15-13; Zarak Jahan (Pak) bt C Walker (Eng) dec; M Chaloner (Eng) bt A Hands (Eng) 15-14, 9-15, 15-8, 12-15, 15-11; S Meads (Eng) bt J Bonafai (Fr) 15-11, 15-2, 15-2; P Nicol (Scot) bt M Heath (Scot) 15-9, 15-9, 15-10.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Final: France bt Sweden 3-2 (France names first): C Pioline bt S Edberg 6-3, 6-4, 5-3; A Boetsch (at Ic) T Enqvist 4-6, 3-6, 6-7; G Forget and C Roux bt N Kulti and J Bjorkman 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; Pioline lost to Enqvist 6-3, 7-5, 4-6, 4-6, 7-9; Boetsch bt Kulti 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 10-8.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men's first division: Polonia Ealing bt Warwick Rya 13-15, 15-7, 15-9, 15-4; Mabey Lewisham bt Hornsey Aquila 15-11, 13-15, 15-6, 15-12; City of Stoke bt Redbrook Liverpool City 15-10, 15-12; Westcliff Southend bt Chelmsford 15-3, 15-9, 15-9.
WOMEN'S EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Second round: [illegible] bt Bilbenia Moss [illegible] 15-12.

SQUASH

Walker to pay for late arrival

CHRIS WALKER, of England, has been disqualified from the Mahindra international in Bombay after turning up late for his first-round match.

The No 4 seed was caught out yesterday by the shortening of the time schedule of the event after the retirement of Anthony Hill, of Australia, from his match.

Hill walked out of his match with Amir Wagih, of Egypt, at the start of the third game, when the referee awarded a penalty point against him for throwing his racket. That left Walker, a world open finalist last month, unable to make it on court for the start of his match with Zarak Jahan, of Pakistan. He now faces a fine from the Professional Squash Association (PSA).

Hill, who has only recently returned from a four-month ban from international competition, faces the possibility of another after his antics.

He will have his behaviour reported to the PSA, which is also likely to consider a report of his part in a controversial match with Zubair Jahan, of Pakistan, in the world open in Karachi last month.

If he is deemed to have brought the game into disrepute, or to be guilty of aggravated behaviour, he is likely to accumulate enough disciplinary points this year to get an automatic ban.

Brett Martin, the No 3 seed and a former champion, was unexpectedly beaten by Omar El Borolossey, the Egyptian No 4.

هكذا من الاصل

TENNIS

Henman to net reward for year's attainments

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

IT SEEMS an awfully long time ago that Tim Henman was taking the nation by storm at Wimbledon, but in tennis the men with the money have long memories. Today Henman opens the Compaq Grand Slam Cup, the richest tournament on the circuit, against Michael Stich, having squeezed into the main draw after an exodus of top players.

At worst, Henman stands to make $100,000 (£65,000) as a first-round loser, but, should he go through to the quarter-finals, he is guaranteed a cheque of at least $250,000; and, against Stich, anything is possible.

Not that Henman is expecting anything from his week in Munich. The call to arms was a surprise and whatever happens here is no more than a bonus to a highly successful year.

The experience will at least serve Henman well. To play Stich in front of a partisan German crowd should make the polite, if enthusiastic, applause on the lawns of the All England Club seem a million miles away and, should he reach the semi-finals, he is likely to face Boris Becker.

CUP DRAW

M Stich (Ger) v T Henman (GB); M Washington (US) v R Krajicek (Holl); B Becker (Ger) v J Stoltenberg (Aus); J Hlasek (Switz) v C Pioline (Fr); M Rosset (Switz) v J Courier (US); T Enqvist (Swe) v Y Kafelnikov (Russ); A Agassi (US) v M Woodforde (Aus); M Tillstrom (Swe) v G Ivanisevic (Cro).

The Grand Slam Cup has always been something of a mixed blessing to its champions. They walk away with $1.5 million for winning the tournament, with an extra $250,000 for each grand-slam tournament title that they have won during the course of the year. Few, though, have been able to carry the weight of all that money and victory here has marked the beginning of nose dives in the careers of some past champions.

In 1991 David Wheaton was ranked No 12 in the world and a semi-finalist at Wimbledon. He rounded off the year with a win in Munich and has not been the same since. Two years later Petr Korda took the title and has spent the three years since trying to climb back to his former world standing after a series of injuries. Even Stich has had his ups and downs since he won here in 1992 and lost to Korda in the 1993 final.

Not even the vast sums of money on offer can repair the wear and tear of 11 months on the road and, as the season limps to a close, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin have pulled out citing injury problems. That has opened the door not only for Henman, but also for Thomas Enqvist and Jacob Hlasek. Quite what state Enqvist will be in tomorrow, when he takes on Yevgeny Kafelnikov, is anybody's guess. A fraught Davis Cup final and five long sets on Sunday may have ended his challenge before it has even begun.

Goran Ivanisevic is the exception to the Grand Slam Cup rule, but then again he never does anything according to the rules. As moody as he is talented, Ivanisevic, the world No 4, was stuck firmly in the doldrums until he arrived in Munich last December. With no real hopes of doing well, he won the title and has collected five Association of Tennis Professionals Tour events this year. He begins his defence tomorrow against Mikael Tillstrom.

If pushed, most players will admit that they play in the Grand Slam Cup for the money. Ivanisevic, though, has an added motive. Last year he took his winner's cheque back to Croatia and started a children's foundation to help those still struggling in the "aftermath" of the war. While few things appear to matter to Ivanisevic, he is at heart a decent chap and a good showing in Munich will help to swell the foundation's coffers.

Cup strengthens its emotional ties

David Miller on the dramatic French win that epitomised the appeal of tennis as a team competition

Boetsch, left, and Pioline are overjoyed after winning the Davis Cup for France

If there was any doubt about the continuation of the Davis Cup as an annual contest, then it was expelled by one of the most enthralling of the 84 finals so far, in which France defeated Sweden 3-2 in Malmö. For the first time, the final was decided in the fifth set of the fifth rubber.

The last day, over nine fluctuating hours of the two remaining singles, was one of the most tensely emotional sporting events in my experience. Thomas Enqvist's victory, from two sets down, over Cedric Pioline, and Arnaud Boetsch's defeat of Niklas Kulti, deputy for the injured Stefan Edberg, produced the kind of theatre with unknown plot that words cannot adequately portray.

Before play on Sunday, Brian Tobin, the president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), had given a press conference at which he poured cold water, not to say scorn, on a suggestion that the Davis Cup might be limited, to accommodate self-centred professionals, to a two or four-yearly cycle. Such a proposal has been made by Sampras, Agassi and that foremost of commercial tennis entrepreneurs, Ion Tiriac.

"The ITF sees no benefit in a two-year cycle," Tobin said, "or, as Tiriac suggests, every four years. We've got to encourage the top players to play, but the Davis Cup is not designed just for them. We have 127 countries competing next year."

Yannick Noah, the France captain, who was on the losing side when beaten by John McEnroe over five sets in the final of 1982, was even more dismissive, as his team began celebrating their first victory since 1991. "If they [the top United States players] don't play, too bad," he said. "We'll just keep winning! If they only play every five years, that's wonderful.

"What I love about the Davis Cup is that it's not about contracts, schedules, about business. It's about a team. A different thing. It takes [individual] character to win in the grand slams, but what you do in the Davis Cup is sacrifice for others . . . that's why the Davis Cup is great. You have to give up four weeks [of earning time].

"And look at the doubles. This is when doubles become a big deal. You don't get that elsewhere anymore. This team makes my life special — they are the ones sweating and bleeding."

One of those had been Boetsch, who was selected but did not play in 1991. A 27-year-old Parisian, ranked 32 places above Kulti at No 33 in the world, he now shared with the not widely-known Swede a marathon match more memorable than most.

If sympathy instinctively veers towards Kulti, wracked with cramp, for failing to grasp any of three match points at 7-6 in the final set, admiration abounds for Boetsch's capacity not to panic, to hit three steady services that Kulti could not exploit.

Kulti had seized the Excaliber of Edberg, who had been laid low with an injured ankle in the first set of the opening match on Friday against Pioline. Leading two sets to one, and then with match points, the reserve was poised for triumph. The attack of cramp had struck when he was 5-3 down in the fourth set tie-break. Throughout the final set, the colour drained from his face and fear became visible behind his eyes, as the realisation took hold that his pain was increasingly likely to deny him and his country.

Edberg is chaired from the arena by the French

"Sure, I was aware he was cramping bad," Boetsch said, "and I tried to make him move [about], but didn't do it so well. He was serving very well and I was also tired, but trying my best."

It was a disappointment that Edberg should have been denied his opportunity to bid a last time for one of the game's finest rewards. In recognition of his illustrious career, the French team spontaneously chaired him from the arena.

☐ Jeremy Bates will be the non-playing captain of the British squad that will compete in the champions' division in the European men's team championships, which start in Reggio Calabria, Italy, today.

SNOOKER

Hendry's status confirmed by stirring victory

BY PHIL YATES

THE true greats of any sport are defined by an ability to give of their best when battle is at its most intense. Stephen Hendry's 10-9 victory over John Higgins in the United Kingdom championship final on Sunday, was just such an occasion.

In many respects, the manner in which Hendry prevailed was more impressive than a 10-0 whitewash. It once again underscored the theory that he revels in pressure situations, unlike the majority of players who are inhibited by them.

"I know how good I am when my back is to the wall and I also know it's a tremendous asset," Hendry said. He has now captured two of his five UK titles in deciding-frame finishes after an equally dramatic 16-15 win over Steve Davis five years ago.

Davis, the yardstick by which Hendry views the progress of his career, has collected 28 world ranking titles since becoming a professional in 1978. Hendry, who only surrendered his amateur status in 1985, has already won 26.

The Scot leads Davis in "majors" won with six world championship and Benson & Hedges Masters triumphs combining with five successful campaigns at Preston to make 17 against the 14 secured by Davis.

In two other significant statistical categories, Hendry occupies a league of his own. He has compiled 358 century breaks in professional competition, more than 100 more than Davis, and almost 200 more than Jimmy White and John Parrott, third and fourth on the list respectively.

Even more illuminating is Hendry's total career prize-money. By collecting the £70,000 first prize on Sunday and the £5,000 highest televised break award, Hendry increased this figure to £4,962,987.

Putting this into perspective, Hendry has earned, using the current exchange rate, a greater sum than some members of the top ten all-time money earners on the United States golf tour.

It is, however, a measure of the man that, after lifting the UK trophy for a third successive year, Hendry drew most satisfaction from having safely protected his leading position in the provisional world rankings.

The path taken by the final showed Hendry's unshakeable temperament in a new light. This powerful front runner has never appeared quite so vulnerable on such a big occasion, yet, with the Guild Hall ready to acclaim a Higgins victory, Hendry somehow engaged overdrive.

From the moment Higgins stole the thirteenth frame by doubling a re-spotted black after requiring a snooker, Hendry was unusually edgy. Trailing 8-9, he seemed set to collapse. However, defying momentum and tension, Hendry constructed unanswered runs of 82 and 77 in the closing two frames while Higgins failed to muster a single point. The long-term effect on their future meetings remains to be seen.

Hendry: impressive

Hendry has now won four of their five encounters, including a 9-5 success in the final of the Skoda Grand Prix last year and, from the evidence of the match on Sunday, Higgins could be in the shadow of his compatriot for some time to come.

"John and myself have proved we're the best two players in the world and we're stretching away from the field," Hendry said. Unfortunately for Higgins, while that may be true, Hendry has pulled away from him.

FINAL: S Hendry (Scot) bt J Higgins (Scot) 10-9. Frame scores (Hendry first): 32-72, 78-32, 106-14, 16-65, 80-28, 108-8, 115-14, 36-70, 4-93, 73-4, 61-33, 108-0, 59-68, 38-68, 32-96, 29-62, 12-62, 82-0, 77-0

ICE HOCKEY

Party mood is wasted on Eagles

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils played their first home game on November 30, 1986; last Saturday, therefore, was a day of celebration. Unfortunately, Ayr Scottish Eagles had not read the script and ruined the party by beating the Devils 3-1.

Without two of their leading players, the Eagles settled for a defensive approach, or, in the words of Jim Lynch, their coach: "We decided to play boring hockey." They were well organised throughout and were helped by a brilliant performance from Sven Rampf, in goal, who made several outstanding saves, notably when he denied Ken Hodge in the second period.

The Devils were not helped by the loss of Mike Ware, their captain, who became involved in a fight with Matt Hoffman after only three minutes' play and who was ejected because two of his punches landed on a linesman. It was Cardiff's fifth home defeat of the season, but they were unbeaten away — until they visited Bracknell Bees, the bottom club, on Sunday.

A goal ahead after only 32 seconds, the Bees were never headed, although the Devils did show some spirit, coming back from a 7-2 deficit in the final period to lose, finally, 7-5.

The Eagles completed a satisfactory weekend by holding Sheffield Steelers 4-4, and must be in good spirits as they prepare for the Benson and Hedges Cup final on Saturday. In contrast, Nottingham Panthers, their opponents, have injury problems and their lack of depth is proving a handicap.

On Saturday, they were beaten 4-1 at home by the Steelers — their fifth successive defeat — and have only Bracknell below them in the Superleague.

RESULTS: Superleague: Bracknell 7 Cardiff 5; Sheffield 4 Ayr 4. Premier League: Guildford 5 Solihull 7; Kingston 3 Swindon 5; Peterborough 5 Medway 9; Telford 4 Slough 6. Northern Premier League: Blackburn 3 Paisley 8; Murrayfield 1 Fife 8; Whitley 9 Castlereagh 4.

SPORTS FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Third round, second leg
Newcastle (1) v FC Metz (1) (8.0)

FA Carling Premiership
Middlesbrough v Leicester (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Birmingham v Barnsley (7.45)
Reading v Tranmere (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield (7.45)

Second division
Blackpool v Plymouth
Brentford v Notts County (7.45)
Bristol City v Watford (7.45)
Burnley v Wrexham (7.45)
Bury v Preston (7.45)
Chesterfield v Peterborough (7.45)
Gillingham v Crewe (7.45)
Luton v York (7.45)
Rotherham v Stockport (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Bournemouth
Walsall v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Wycombe v Millwall (7.45)

Third division
Barnet v Leyton Orient (7.45)
Brighton v Darlington (7.45)
Cambridge Utd v Mansfield (7.45)
Cardiff v Swansea
Chester v Fulham
Exeter v Hereford (7.45)
Lincoln v Carlisle
Northampton v Hull (7.45)
Scarborough v Colchester
Scunthorpe v Hartlepool
Torquay v Rochdale (7.45)
Wigan v Doncaster (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Dunfermline v Celtic (8.0)

First division
East Fife v Dundee

Second division
Clyde v Stranraer

Third division
Alloa v Albion
Cowdenbeath v Forfar

Spalding Cup
Second round
Woking v Welling (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Tn v Gresley.
ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Hungerford v Chalfont St Peter; Metropolitan Police v Windsor and Eton; Tilbury v Edgware. Third division: Northwood v Tring.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Leigh v Curzon Ashton; Workington v Netherfield; Worksop v Bradford Pk Ave. Cup: Second round: Spennymoor v Harrogate Town. Second-round replay: Guisborough v Leek. Third round: Colwyn Bay v Winsford; Matlock Town v Guiseley; Radcliffe v Barrow.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Norwich v West Ham.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v Aston Villa (at Telford United FC)
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Hythe v Herne Bay; Whitstable v Furness.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Elmore v Barnstaple, Torrington v Taunton.
COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Raynes Park Vale v Corinthian-Casuals; Viking Sports v Feltham
CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Second round: Chimney Corner v Ballymena; Crusaders v Distillery; Portadown v Linfield.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey v Royston.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Darwen; Chadderton v Eastwood H; Glossop North End v Mossley; Newcastle Town v Prescot Cables; Trafford v Vauxhall GM.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: March v Soham; Tiptree v Harwich and Parkeston Cup: Second round: Norwich United v Halstead.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Thatcham v Brockenhurst.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup second-round replay: East Grinstead v Ringmer; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Eastbourne United. Third round: Arundel v Selsey.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round: Hallam v Sandwell; Tow Law v Munton
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Buxton v Grantham
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Liversedge v Hucknall.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Nottingham Forest v Middlesbrough; Chelsea v Crystal Palace.
SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Durham v Northumberland (at Dunston Federation, 7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Anglo-Welsh Cup
Pool 1A
Bristol v Neath (7.30)
CLUB MATCH: Newbury v Army (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Derby (8.0)
ICE HOCKEY: European League: TPS Turku (Fin) v Manchester (7.30)

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 7
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Arsenal v Derby 1
2 Chelsea v Everton 1
3 Coventry v Tottenham 2
4 Leicester v Blackburn X
5 Liverpool v Sheff Wed 1
6 Middlesbro v Leeds 2
7 South'pton v A Villa X
8 Sunderl'd v W'bledon 1

FIRST DIVISION
9 Barnsley v Southend 1
10 Brm'gham v Grimsby 1
11 Charlton v Swindon X
12 C Palace v Oxford 1
13 Hudd'field v Norwich 2
14 Ipswich v Wolves 2
15 Man City v Bradford 1
16 Oldham v QPR 1
17 Reading v Port Vale 1
18 Sheff Utd v Portsm'th 1
19 Stoke v Tranmere 2

FA CUP
SECOND ROUND
20 Blackp'l v Hednesf'd 1
21 Cambridge v Woking X
22 Carlisle v Darlington 2
23 Chester v Boston 1
24 Chest'field v Scarboro 1
25 Wrexham v South'pe 1
26 Enfield v Peterboro 2
27 Barnet v Wycombe X
28 Walsall v Burnley 2
29 Notts Co v Rochdale 1
30 Preston v York 1
31 Sudbury v Brentford 2
32 Hull v Crewe 2

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
33 Kettering v Slough X
34 Ivd'minster v Dover 1
35 Southport v Br'sgrove 1
36 Stalybridge v Halifax X
37 Welling v Bath 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER
38 Dunf'mline v Aberd'n X
39 Hearts v Raith 1
40 Kilmarn'k v Dundee U X
41 Motherwell v Celtic 2
42 Rangers v Hibernian 1

SCOTTISH FIRST
43 Airdrie v Clydebank 1
44 Dundee v Falkirk 1
45 East Fife v Partick X
46 G Morton v St J'stone 2
47 Stirling v St Mirren 2

SCOTTISH SECOND
48 Stranraer v Brechin 1

SCOTTISH THIRD
49 Ross v Montrose X

DRAWS (home teams): Leicester, Southampton, Charlton, Cambridge, Barnet, Kettering, Stalybridge, Dunfermline, Kilmarnock, East Fife, Ross.

BEST DRAWS: Southampton, Charlton, Barnet, Kettering, Dunfermline.

AWAYS: Leeds, Wolves, Peterborough, Brentford, Crewe.

HOMES: Arsenal, Sunderland, Barnsley, Birmingham, Oldham, Chester, Kidderminster, Southport, Welling, Stranraer.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Sunderland, Barnsley, Southport, Welling. Aways: Leeds, Brentford, Crewe. Draws: Charlton, Barnet, Dunfermline.

☐ Vince Wright

ATHLETICS

Channel 4 makes all the running

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics will switch channels next year after 12 years with ITV, it was confirmed yesterday. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) has had to settle for a reduced income from the domestic contract, but the prevailing feeling is one of relief in the wake of suggestions that it may have to give away its product.

Channel 4 announced a four-year deal to cover the main meetings in Britain, as well as provide a weekly magazine programme along the lines of those it offers its American football and Italian football viewers.

ITV's dissatisfaction with the BAF's handling of the sport prompted it not to take up its option to extend its contract. When the federation blocked Michael Johnson from running in its Grand Prix at Crystal Palace last summer ITV did not show the meeting live, and it remains to be seen to what extent Channel 4 will offer live coverage.

"Certainly the majority will be live," a Channel 4 spokesman said. Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, confirmed that there were no guarantees, but said: "Our expectation is that the majority of our events will be shown live."

The deal means that the BBC has lost another of its traditional events, the AAA championships, which serve as Olympic and world championship trials.

The number of British meetings televised, and the income from them, has fallen drastically from a peak of more than 20 a decade ago, when ITV paid £10.8 million for five years. Channel 4 will cover six meetings next year. Although the BAF referred to a "substantial rights fee" from Channel 4, it is less than the £3 million two-year deal for 1995 and 1996 when the figure had already dropped from £9 million in 1990.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand is from the British women's match against New Zealand, in the recent Olympiad in Rhodes.

Dealer South — Love all — IMPs

North: ♠AK8 ♥73 ♦J8 ♣AKQ1063
West: ♠J643 ♥654 ♦9 ♣J7542
East: ♠75 ♥J1098 ♦KQ10764 ♣8
South: ♠Q1092 ♥AKQ2 ♦A532 ♣9

S	W	N	E
1 H	Pass	2 C	2 D
Double	Pass	3 C	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 C	Pass
4 D	Pass	4 S	Pass
5 C	Pass	6 C	Pass
6 NT	All Pass		

Contract: 6 NT by South — Lead: Nine of diamonds

It looks as though North's Two Clubs was game-forcing, a common method. Nicola Smith, West, led the nine of diamonds, covered by the jack and queen and declarer correctly ducked. Declarer won the diamond continuation, West discarding a heart, and continued with three top hearts.

This was good technique. When West discarded a spade on the third heart she was marked with nine black cards. If declarer had continued by taking four rounds of spades she would have discovered that West had five clubs; that makes finessing in clubs the best chance. Luckily the declarer failed to take advantage of this information and went down. Just as well, as our girls only got to 3 NT in the other room.

Chris Dixon, my reporter in Rhodes, points out that Six Clubs is the best North-South contract. After a diamond lead, declarer wins and plays two rounds of clubs, followed by three rounds of hearts, discarding a diamond.

Now, as at least three spades have to stand up, declarer plays off the ace, king and queen. It only remains to ruff the fourth spade in the North hand; then in the three-card ending, declarer exits with the six of clubs and claims the last two tricks with the queen and ten.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Ninth title

Jan Timman, the Dutch grandmaster, has won the Dutch championship for the ninth time in a play-off with Ivan Sokolov, the former Bosnian grandmaster. However, Timman still has a long way to go before he surpasses the all-time record of 14 Dutch title wins by Max Euwe. The extraordinary popularity of chess in Holland can largely be ascribed to Euwe's victory in the world championship match against Alekhine in 1935, which created overnight chess fever in Holland. A stream of strong grandmasters resulted from this initial enthusiasm, including Donner, Timman and Piket, while Holland also became a magnet for displaced foreign stars such as Sosonko and Sokolov himself. Timman's defeated opponent in the Dutch championship match.

White: Ivan Sokolov
Black: Jan Timman

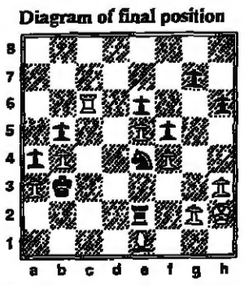
Dutch championship
Play-off
Holland, November 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Nf3	e6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Qc2	Bd6
7	Bd3	0-0
8	0-0	dxc4
9	Bxc4	Qe7
10	h3	c5
11	dxc5	Bxc5
12	e4	Bd6
13	Nb5	Ne5
14	Nxe5	Bxe5
15	Be3	a6
16	Nd4	b5
17	Nc6	Qc7
18	Nxe5	Qxe5
19	Bd3	Bb7
20	f4	Qh5
21	Bc5	Rfd8
22	b4	Rac8
23	e5	Nd5
24	Qb3	a5
25	a3	a4
26	Qd1	Qxd1
27	Rxxd1	Nc3
28	Rd2	Be4
29	Bd6	f5
30	Kh2	Bxd3
31	Rxd3	Ne4
32	Rff3	Rc2
33	Be7	Rxd3
34	Rxd3	Rd2
35	Re3	Kf7
36	Bh4	Ke8
37	Be1	Rb2
38	Rd3	h6
39	Rd1	Ra2
40	Rc1	Kd7
41	Rd1+	Kc6
42	Rc1+	Kd5
43	Rd1+	Kc4
44	Rc1+	Kb3
45	Rc6	Ra2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HORS DE COMBAT
a. A warhorse
b. Prelude to battle
c. Out of action

LE ROI PANADE
a. The Sun King
b. Louis XVIII
c. An autocrat

PIECE DE RESISTANCE
a. A partisan's weapon
b. A chef d'oeuvre
c. Tough steak

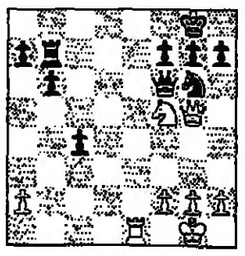
SANGFROID ANGLAIS
a. Bloody Englishman
b. A cold in the nose
c. Self-possession

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Freeman, New York, 1924. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of Alekhine's death; this week I will be commemorating this event with a series of positions from Alekhine's games. How did he win here with a clever tactical sequence?



Solution on page 50

Zimbabwe labours on without its prodigal son

Simon Wilde in Harare finds a population pondering the absence of Graeme Hick, once the local boy made good, now an Englishman

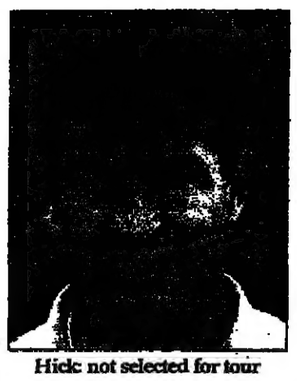
There is no doubting the most poignant moment so far of England's tour of Zimbabwe. As the No 3 for Country Districts XI came out to bat at Harare South Country Club on Saturday, the announcer read out the wrong name over the public address. It was not John Oates, as it should have been, but that of the man who looms over this tour like Banquo's ghost: Graeme Hick.

Almost every day, one is reminded of the existence of the batsman England left behind. Hick, of course, was born here and has many friends and admirers who would like to have seen him return, in any colours. Yet there are also those who resent his decisions ten years ago to make England his home and pursue his sporting ambitions there.

Bizarrely, Hick was considered for selection by both teams for the match on Saturday, though of course in the end he played for neither. The local association wanted him to play for the Districts side to recoup on the gate some of the large amount of money it paid to the Zimbabwe Cricket Union to stage the game, but he declined two months ago.

"Graeme desperately wanted to be here with England," John Hick, his father, who watched the match, said. "He has not been here for four years and was really looking forward to coming back, but if you do not make the runs you cannot expect to be picked. He also seriously considered playing for the local association, but was anxious that he would not have done himself justice. He knew he would not have held a bat for two months."

Hick's image is as confused in Zimbabwe as it is in England. Is he one of theirs or is he not? Some still claim him as one of their own; some are happy to accept that he is "English" now; some regard his long residential qualification for England as an act of treachery, though they seem to forget that when he embarked on that qualification process — in the mid-Eighties — Zimbabwe were not a Test match nation and had little immediate prospect of becoming one. They finally achieved



Hick: not selected for tour

Test status in 1992, the year after Hick became available to England.

That Hick could contemplate playing for a local side against England does nothing, of course, to assuage those who label him a ruthless opportunist. It is hardly surprising, then, that there are few outward signs of people eager to lay claim to him. At his school in Harare, Prince Edward High School, there are few reminders of one of its most famous former pupils. The notice boards and trophy cabinets do not bear his name. There is just one photograph of him — among many — in the cricket pavilion.

It is fairly obvious that Hick's presence here would have put hundreds on the gates. His father confirmed the general sense of disappointment. "Many people have come up to me and said what a shame it is Graeme is not here. They were so looking forward to seeing him bat, but I am aware there are also those who would have liked him to come and fail."

Hick's absence may be a personal blessing in disguise. Those closest to him believe he desperately needs a rest from the game that made him famous. He last had an extended break 13 years ago, when he was taken on a club tour at the age of 17 and Basil d'Oliveira discovered him for Worcestershire's second XI, launching him on his record-breaking career in England.

Others are not so sure. One friend from his Harare days fears his England days are over. "One or two of the English professionals out here [with club sides] think that England have come to a decision about him. They don't want him any more and don't need him. And he does have this fundamental weakness — the way he looks to play everything through gully."

However, David Houghton, the Zimbabwe coach who has known Hick since he was a boy, makes no bones about the fact that his players are relieved Hick was not chosen by England. "We have got over the stage of worrying about him being Zimbabwean. He is English as far as we are concerned and we saw him as a threat," he said.

"I personally am pleased he was left behind. I think it is the best thing that has ever happened to him. He really needs to regenerate. He will come back next summer in England with all guns blazing."

New flesh on old bones

Random Edition. *Radio 4, 12.25pm.*

By now, you should have become hopelessly addicted to Andrew Green's series in which 1996 flesh is put on the often forgotten bones of history. Today, Peter Snow pores over a computer-selected newspaper of 1651. It was the year, we are told, when Scots discovered that what they had long believed to be true — that God was a Scot — probably wasn't true after all. It was also the year that the abduction in Greenwich Park in London of Jane Puckering, "a gentlewoman of plentiful fortune and estate", became an issue of state, and the year a certain Sir Henry Hyde ("whom nobody had ever accused of being clever", says a history expert) literally lost his head in a sort of political road accident.

Song of the Whale. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Steve Hennessey, who wrote this grim play, is a social worker, so presumably he is no stranger to the kind of situation he dramatises. If that is correct, *Song of the Whale* must be regarded as a useful addition to radio's stock of social case histories. Essentially, it is about the urge to corrupt innocence that some people have. A schoolboy (Guy Bingley), mourning his baby brother's death, plans to run away to Siberia to be within talking distance of whales. During a seaside holiday, he falls in with two undesirables (Russell Parry and Robert Whelan). The play's heroic conclusion rings less true than what has gone before.

Peter Davalle

CRICKET: AUSTRALIA HANDED INITIATIVE IN SYDNEY BY EMBARRASSING INEPTITUDE OF OPPONENTS

Shambolic West Indies plumb depths

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (fourth day of five): West Indies, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 313 runs to beat Australia

RICK RYCROFT

Elliott, left, and Waugh collapse after colliding while attempting a third run. Elliott made his ground, but needs surgery on his right knee

TEST cricket is a hard taskmaster, especially when played on the ugly mongrel of a Sydney day that confronted West Indies yesterday. As hot winds gusted in a sticky 90F, a searching challenge to a fielding team's purpose and professionalism, West Indies were pitiful. They reacted to adversity in a manner that will have made their proud management team of Clive Lloyd and Malcolm Marshall cringe in disbelief.

Their overnight position in this fourth Test reveals little. Indeed, although Mark Taylor's declaration asked them to score 340 — 64 more than the best winning run-chase in a Sydney Test — they conceivably felt they had one chance in 250 with the Brian Lara factor that we must endlessly acknowledge.

This misses the point. Throughout this fourth day, their bowling was unambitious and their field placings as fatalistic as when Sunderland put nine men behind the ball and kicked for touch after having two players sent off at Highbury in September. There was a growing feeling that Australia would not lose a wicket all day when Matthew Elliott, 22 short of a century, collided violently with his partner, Mark Waugh, in a bizarre episode that concluded with him being carried from the ground on an improvised stretcher, the drinks buggy.

Worst of all in the litany of West Indian chaos, though, was the fielding. From first hour to last they were lamentable in a way I have never witnessed from a Test team, not even England at their comical worst on this same ground six years ago.

A side with the traditions of West Indies deserve a plea in mitigation and they will say that this resentful pitch was useless for their regulation pace attack, that their priority, already 1-0 down in the series, was damage limitation and that the outfield on the once immaculate SCG was a rutted disgrace. All have a degree of truth, but not enough, not remotely enough.

The tone for a day that went precisely to Taylor's plan, give or take 20 minutes at the end, was set 20 minutes after the start. Mark Waugh, on 15, cut at Benjamin and Courtney Browne, moving to his right, withdrew his glove from the flight so late that Lara, at slip, was left helpless. Waugh went on to make 67 and to bat almost to tea.

Every wicketkeeper drops catches, but the uncoordinated Browne has no understanding with his first slip, which is a profound problem. Mistakes, consequently, are so regular that Browne is also in no position to perform the chorus of enthusiastic regrouping that is mere routine to good glovemen.

There is a perpetual fascination to the body language of the West Indians but there was little guesswork to be done now. Three times, Benjamin misfielded embarrassingly, and the ball was not always chased after the fumble. Ambrose joined in, then Bishop, and the day was summarised when Ambrose, who rose from his dark depths only by wearing purple socks, was straight-driven by Greg Blewett for Bishop and Walsh to escort it geriatrically to the boundary.

Of course, it was unpleasantly hot. The winds blew off the bails and brought in a constant fly nuisance, but such a climate is not new to these men. Only their apparent indifference and unarguable ineptitude is new.

It was hard work for the batsmen, too, though more because the surface is insultingly slow than through the merit of the bowling. Elliott and Waugh had added only 64 in 26 overs when, with their eyes on Walsh's throw from mid-wicket, they had a head-on crash seeking a third run.

Hooper, the bowler, gathered the return and could have turned to break the stumps with Waugh yards short. Instead, unfathomably, he threw to Browne, who failed to beat Elliott's desperate dive. Hooper's action meant that Elliott was able to retire unbeaten, though he now faces surgery on a torn right knee cartilage.

Michael Bevan's personal uncertainty meant he was not the ideal man to come in, but the nature of the bowling was eventually therapeutic and he became the third Australian to pass 50, after Waugh's dismissal had spared Ambrose the indignity of failing to take a wicket in the game.

Blewett's second perky innings of the match set up the declaration and allowed Taylor an enterprising experiment, opening the bowling not with Shane Warne, but Waugh bowling off spin. It just might have worked, too.

There was a theory that the roughness of the ground would permit Australia some reverse-swing later today but their liveliest match-winner remained Warne. Failure, however, would guarantee him some ribbing — two hours after the game concludes: he is due to appear as a guest on *Blankety Blank*.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings 331 (G S Blewett 69; C A Walsh 5 for 95)

Second Innings

*M A Taylor c Lara b Bishop	16
M T G Elliott retired hurt	78
R T Ponting c Browne b Bishop	4
M E Waugh c Browne b Ambrose	67
M G Bevan c Browne b Benjamin	52
G S Blewett not out	47
†I A Healy not out	22
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 3, nb 9)	26
Total (4 wkts dec)	312

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-67, 3-209, 4-274.

BOWLING: Ambrose 20-2-69-1; Walsh 19-6-36-0; Bishop 20-5-54-2; Benjamin 16-4-48-1; Adams 4-0-21-0; Hooper 27-7-75-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings 304 (S L Campbell 77; G D McGrath 4 for 82)

Second Innings

S L Campbell not out	13
R G Samuels not out	12
Extras (lb 1, nb 1)	2
Total (no wkt)	27

BOWLING: McGrath 4-1-7-0; Waugh 4-0-15-0; Gillespie 2-0-3-0; Warne 2-1-1-0.

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and D R Shepherd (England).

England profit from disputed dismissal

ENGLAND A have already learnt how determination, resilience and patience can contribute to a prosperous tour, but they added a further ingredient to their armoury on the third day of their match with Australian Capital Territory in Canberra: they discovered the ability to win the judgment in disputed dismissals (a Special Correspondent writes).

Before Mike Veletta was controversially given out, England were struggling to make the breakthrough against ACT.

His departure, to an arguable catch, followed quickly by the dismissal of Bruce Hara, left ACT on 140 for four at the close, still 52 runs away from preventing an innings defeat.

Veletta edged Adam Hollioake to Craig White, the Yorkshire all-rounder, standing at slip, who appeared to scoop the ball up for Warren Hegg, the wicketkeeper, to take the catch. Veletta, who batted for nearly two hours for 68, disputed the catch by standing his ground and when the umpires refused to reverse their decision, he flung his bat on the ground as he walked off — petulance that prompted the match referee to order him to appear before a disciplinary hearing after play on the final day today.

His dismissal, quickly followed by Hollioake trapping Hara leg-before, put England in a strong position to continue their victory march across Australia and the manager, David Graveney, said: "Getting Veletta out just before the close is a crucial wicket because he's a quality player."

Earlier, England had resumed on 295 for five, with Glen Chapple, the Lancashire fast bowler, giving a further demonstration of his talent with the bat. Chapple hit an unbeaten 59 after Hollioake was caught in the deep off the first ball of the day and Hegg fell four overs later to jeopardise England's hopes of building a large first-innings lead. But with Such, the tailender, adding 35, England were finally dismissed for 408.

SCOREBOARD

ACT: First Innings 216 (P J Solway 59; P M Such 5 for 29)

Second Innings

*M R J Veletta c Hegg b Hollioake	68
P L Evans c Giles b Such	47
P J Solway c Shah b Such	3
B D Hara lbw b Hollioake	13
I A Gamty not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 8)	9
Total (4 wkts)	140

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-106, 2-111, 3-138, 4-140

BOWLING: Chapple 5-0-17-0; Harris 7-1-18-0; Such 21-10-29-2; White 5-2-18-0; Giles 9-1-30-0; Hollioake 4 5-0-9-2.

ENGLAND A: First Innings

M A Butcher c O'Meagher b Smith	29
M P Vaughan lbw b Smith	40
A McGrath c Solway b Thornton	108
O A Shah c Robinson b Mackenzie	23
C White c Solway b McDonald	52
*A J Hollioake c Thornton b Smith	31
†W K Hegg b Smith	1
A F Giles b McDonald	22
G Chapple not out	59
A J Harris lbw b Thornton	18
P M Such c Veletta b Smith	8
Extras (b 6, lb 3, w 1, nb 6)	16
Total	408

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-85, 3-149, 4-245, 5-283, 6-295, 7-303, 8-332, 9-373.

BOWLING: Smith 27-5-91-5; Thornton 25-6-77-2; McDonald 18-3-72-2; O'Meagher 25-7-68-0; Mackenzie 22-4-80-1; Gamty 4-1-11-0

Umpires: B Thornton and J Hammond.

Answers from page 49

HORS DE COMBAT
(c) French for out of the battle. Incapable of taking any further part in the fight; disabled. Hazlitt, *Table Talk, Essay vi*: "He [Cobbett] levels his antagonists, he lays his friends low, and puts his own party hors de combat."

LE ROI PANADE
(b) Louis XVIII, reigned 1814-24. French for the King of Slops, was so nicknamed. Panade is bread soup. Fat Louis, who replaced Napoleon because there was nobody else available or willing to take the unrewarding job of ruling the French, was also known as Louis L'Inévitable.

PIECE DE RESISTANCE
(b) The pièce de résistance is the substantial piece, ie the main dish of a meal, the joint or meat dish. Figuratively, the most important feature, the main event, the best part of the show, the outstanding item.

SANGFROID ANGLAIS
(c) The supposed (by the French) characteristic of the phlegmatic English, undemonstrative, unimaginative, unromantic, dull but solid as pit bull terriers. Seen as the archetype of the Crapauds. *Sang froid* is cold blood. Freedom from excitement or agitation. One does a thing with perfect sangfroid when one does it coolly and collectedly.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Re8+ Nf8; 2. Nh6+! Qxh6; 3. Rxf8+ Kxf8; 4. Qd8 checkmate.

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson. Includes at 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier. Includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq 9.00 Cling Film with Mark Kermode and Mary Anne Hobbs 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Claire Sturgess, includes The Net 4.00am Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy, includes Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Debbie Thrower 1.30pm Ed Stewart 3.00 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 6.00 Ed Stewart 7.00 Hayes Over Britain 8.00 Musical Chair 8.30 The Women in His Life (7/8) 9.00 Gulpp! The Great Leeds Pub Piano 10.00 John Mortimer presents the Trials of Marshall Hall 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 The Tuesday Match, with Mark Pougatch. Newcastle v Metz in the Uefa Cup 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Raeburn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Record Progress 6.45 Development '96 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 Musical Copenhagen 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Pick of the World 8.45 Good Books 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Quote... Unquote 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 Meridian Feature 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Print the Legend 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15 History Today 3.30 Green History of the Planet 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today — Budget Special 6.30 Print the Legend 7.01 Outlook 7.30 Megamix 8.05 Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Feature 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Voicebox 11.15 History Today 11.30 Megamix 12.30am Folk Routes 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian On Screen 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto. Salieri (Concerto for Fortepiano in B flat) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata. Charles Villiers Stanford (Clarinet Sonata Op 129) 7.00 The Opera Guide 8.00 Concert. Ravel (Mother Goose); Bizet (Jeux d'enfants); Fauré (Dolly Suite); Dukas (Sorcerer's Apprentice) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene. 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No 2 in C minor, Op 66); Pascuili (Omaggio a Bellini); Vanhal (Symphony in a minor)
8.50 **An Advent Calendar.** Carols performed by Finchley Chamber Choir, John Winter, organ, conductor David Lardi. Anon (Sweete Was the Song); Irish trad (Good People All); Various, arr Lardi (While Shepherds Watched)
9.00 **Morning Collection.** Includes Avison (Concerto No 8 in E minor); Haydn (Symphony No 104 in D, London)
10.00 **Musical Encounters.** Includes Telemann (Cantata Endlich Wird Die Stunde Schlagen); Scarlatti (Sonata in A, Kk181); Bolcom (Quintet)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Lully.** Includes scenes from Phaeton, Alceste, Armide and Alys. With Guillemette Laurens as Cybile in Atys and in the title role of Armide
1.00pm **News; The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jean-Yves Ossonce, Marco Rizzi, violin. Berlioz (Overture Les France-Juges); Barber (Violin Concert); Brahms (Symphony No in C minor)
2.25 **Ensemble** (r)
3.10 **Montéclair.** Le Triomphe de l'Amour, Deuxième livre de Cantates. Jean-Paul Fouchecourt, tenor, Les Arts Florissants, conductor George Christie
3.25 **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conductor Grant Llewellyn, Ian Bostridge, tenor. Michael Thompson, horn. Fauré (Suite Pelleas et Melisande); Britten (Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings); Mozart (Horn Concerto No 4 in E flat, K495); Haydn (Symphony No 86b in D)
5.00 **The Music Machine.** Tod Machover explains his new hyperinstruments. And cellist Yo-Yo Ma talks about the hypercello Machover designed specially for him
7.30 **Chamber Music from Manchester.** Live recital debut in this country of French violinist Olivier Charlier, partnered by pianist Brigitte Engerer. Ravel (Violin Sonata); Grieg (Violin Sonata No 3 in C minor, Op 45 8.15 Other Histories. Work by poets Sophie Hannah, Miles Champion and James Nunn is read by Melissa Sinden and Russell Davies 8.35 Concert, part 2. Beethoven (Sonata in A, Op 47)
9.30 **The Jesus Diary.** Producer Angela Tilby presents *Jesus in the Movies* and asks, can you tell the truth with pictures?
9.50 **Ulster Orchestra.** Conductor Warwick Stengards. Massenet (Suite La Cid) Dello Joio (The Triumph of St Joan)
10.45 **Night Waves.** With a new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Jonathan Miller and a film version directed by Adrian Noble, Richard Coles talks about the play and its impact
11.30 **Composers of the Week: American Symphonists** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Digby Fairweather reviews the new jazz film *Kansas City*
1.00 **Through the Night**

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)**
6.00 **News Briefing** 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Call Nick Ross**
10.00 **News; Walston Goes Walkabout (FM):** The Whale Trail (4/4)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour,** with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Medicine Now,** with Geoff Watts
12.00pm **News; You and Yours**
12.25 **Random Edition.** See Choice 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping
2.00 **News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Song of the Whale.** See Choice (r)
2.30 **Personal Records.** Jeremy Nicholes visits the homes of well-known personalities to delve into their records collection in search of musical and personal revelations. This week, broadcaster Sue MacGregor
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift,** with Daire Brehan. Evelyn Davies tells the story of Pennant Melangell, an ancient shrine that has become a place of pilgrimage for cancer sufferers
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Paul Vaughan reads a collection of John Fuller's verse and celebrates 25 years of the Crafts Council as a new exhibition opens
4.45 **Short Story: Solitaire,** by Julia Stoneham. A desperate woman and her children set off on a daunting journey through the opal country of the Australian outback. Reader Philip Franks
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **A Little of What you Fancy.** Starring David Jason and Pam Ferris as Pop and Ma Larkin in Eric Pringle's dramatisation of the novel by H.E. Bates (2/6) (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **File on 4,** with Jonathan Rugman
8.00 **Science Now.** The latest from the world of science (r)
8.30 **The Road to Repair.** A series about the treatment of problem children. Jenny Cuffe follows young people in residential care (2/6) (r)
9.00 **In Touch.** Peter White with news, views and information for visually impaired people
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.58 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Isabel Hilton
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Arclay and Mehitable,** by Don Marquis (7/8) (r)
11.00 **Mediumwave.** The week's events in the media with Vincent Hanna (r)
11.30 **I Was That Teenager (FM).** In the last of the series, Hunter Davies explores the teenage life of stand-up comic Mark Lamarr (r)
11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW)**
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 **The Late Book: Carol.** Patricia Highsmith's powerful love story. Abridged by Janet Chambers (7/12)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; OIC 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Deer, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

A manic Monday of women behaving badly

Monday nights are normally staid affairs. We look forward to the cool authority of *Horizon*, *World in Action*, *Panorama* or *Secret Lives*, and wrap our legs in blankets. But something went wrong last night: the telly glowed hot and over-excited, perhaps in early anticipation of Christmas. What with the continuation of **Moll Flanders** (ITV) as well as the **Wicked Women** film *Brazen Hussies* (BBC2) the telly was all noise and colour and flesh and sex, in dizzying amounts. Normally, the morning after a Monday night, one wakes the wiser for a few facts about science, society, politics and biography; and can feel sober and virtuous (if curiously empty). How remarkable, then, that waking after last night's offerings one cannot see the colour pink without breaking into a muck sweat and rushing to the bathroom.

Brazen Hussies was a bold production, but unfortunately its boldness had so little ostensible purpose that it becomes hard to offer congratulations. In terms of production, in fact, it was one of the most peculiar things I've ever seen — a high-camp, hysterical form of paradise, with boudoirs of deep pink, ambient light of deep pink, condoms of deep pink, and even deep pink bollards running alongside the gasometer. Julian Clary did simpering cameos. Meanwhile the rather sad story concerned a middle-aged, love-starved woman whose attempt to jump-start her libido involved employing young men as male strippers in her husband's pub.

Julie Walters, as Maureen, was terrific, as usual — but never has an actor had to fight so hard against the wallpaper, and lost. Meanwhile, Robert Lindsay gave an enthusiastically flesh-crawling performance as the loathsome Billy: a preening romeo with Bee Gee shirts and nasty hair like Peter Stringfellow, who seduced Maureen and promptly betrayed her. His particular courtship ritual was to disappear under a dinner table and re-emerge with Maureen's tights in his mouth, so no wonder she fell for him. Sexual attraction is funny, isn't it? The only trouble from the characterisation point of view was that, with Billy clearly contemptible from the start, Lindsay had nowhere much to take him (pelvic thrusts notwithstanding).

A bit more realism in the production, and Maureen and Billy could have come properly alive. But realism wasn't the point, as I somehow keep forgetting. Posing pouches were the point; waxed chests, and menopausal over-excitement. Women in garish make-up chased young lads, shrieking, down the street; at the grand opening of Ladies' Night, a pack of women fell on Lindsay and tore his clothes off, like the Bacchae with hairspray. And in the midst of it all, Jimmy Tarbuck was brilliantly cast as a showbiz promoter, which shows what bizarre things can happen when imagination runs wild.

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

What would have made Maureen happy? Love, that's what. Or, in her own words, "some kind of tenderness". The same message keeps coming across in the continuing story of *Moll Flanders*, too. Beautifully played by Alex Kingston, Moll is feisty (and fond of rumpy-pumpy), but the point of her story is that she is continually searching for a safe haven. She only looks for a new man when the last one lets her down; or when conscience drives her. Last night's second episode concerned her unfortunate marriage to her half-brother, in Virginia. The discovery of this consanguinity was double-edged, of course, because although Moll found her true mother (hoorah!), the old lady turned out to be Diana Rigg in a funny hood, doing an uncalled-for impersonation of Glenda Jackson.

Much as I am enjoying *Moll Flanders* — especially the very English, *Tom Jones* energy of it — I must say the scene between mother and daughter last night was astonishingly bad. Rigg's Mrs Golightly is certainly no conventional woman, but her reception of Moll's news still required something more in the acting department than pursed lips and round eyes. It's not every day you discover your son's wife is your own daughter. Diana Rigg, however, looked like somebody who had just been goosed, but couldn't look round.

Best thing of the whole evening, in my opinion, was Channel 4's **Pond Life**. This new, 15-minute animated series, written and directed by Candy Guard, concerns yet another reckless female looking in vain for a harbour, in this case Dolly Pond — a grotesque cartoon girl with big glasses, spotty shorts and a fat friend called Belle.

Dissatisfied single life is the big funny subject with women these days, and it makes you think, doesn't it? I mean, gosh, if I had only written a million columns about it myself, I would bring them out in paperback for Christmas!

Dolly Pond, meanwhile, is gloriously funny — snappy, self-pitying, self-deluding, contradictory, exaggerated; in short, just like every single woman I know. Deciding that she's hopelessly in love with a ginger-haired photographer called Sid (who has no idea), she watches telly with Belle but can't get Sid off her mind. "Bernice!" says someone on the telly. "Oh God," sighs Dolly, wretchedly. "Sid's mum's called Bernice."

The drawing is funny, but the scripts are brilliant (and I have watched the next three, to check.) Emma Chambers voices Belle, and Sarah Ann Kennedy has the perfect moaning tone for Dolly. The only problem is that it's scheduled at 5.45 — when nobody will see it.

● *Lynne Truss's collection of columns* Making the Cat Laugh *is published by Penguin on Thursday at £6.99*

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (13715)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (44845)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T) (1291338)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4174357)
9.45 KILROY Studio debate (6900406)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (13390)
11.00 NEWS (T) (3693390)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5694203)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8387834)
12.00 NEWS (T) (7820767)
12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (T) (3630951)
12.50 A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE (30010048)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (47932)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (59820654)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29044390)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (7135)
2.30 THE TERRACE (39)
3.00 INCOGNITO (9970)
3.30 BRUM (7058785) **3.40 Romuald the Reindeer** (1535406) **3.50 Chucklevision** (5295574) **4.10 Oscar's Orchestra** (T) (1132512) **4.35 It'll Never Work** (T) (7928425) **5.00 Newsround** (T) (5586086)
5.10 THE BIZ A new series begins about the students of the Markov School of Dance and Drama (8888593)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (230338)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (38)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (90)
7.00 HOLIDAY Jill Dando visits Sorrento on the Neapolitan riviera; John Pitman drives *from LA to Palm Springs; Carol Smillie* explores Portugal's Costa de Prata on horseback; and John Holdsworth takes the Eurostar to Lille (T) (1951)
7.30 EASTENDERS The Vic is under surveillance, while Peggy and Tiffany embark on a secret trip. Carol receives a very frosty reception upon her return home (T) (74)
8.00 SPORTSNIGHT: Newcastle v Metz Live action from the Uefa Cup third round *second-leg tie from St James' Park*. Presented by Desmond Lynam. Commentary from John Motson and Chris Waddle. **NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration** (41593244)
9.55 NEWS (T) **REGIONAL NEWS** and weather (498512)
10.25 FILM: Nighthawks (1981) with Sylvester Stallone. Thriller about two New York cops who are assigned to a special unit *on the trail of international terrorists*. Directed by Bruce Malmuth (T) (340785) **WALES: 10.25** Irish Politics **10.55** FILM: Nighthawks **12.30am** FILM: After Midnight **2.00** News headlines; weather
12.00 FILM: After Midnight (1989) with Julian McWhirter and Pamela Segall. A group of college students visit their tutor's house one night as part of their "Psychology of Fear" course. Not all survive until the morning. Directed by Ken and Jim Wheat (T) (94617)
1.30am WEATHER (8555471)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Necessity for History (7068222) **6.25** Witting and Unwitting Testimony (7085357) **6.50** An Historian at Work (8399319) **7.15** See Hear News (2318406) **7.30** Perils of Penelope Pitstop (5239390) **7.50** Blue Peter (r) (5240406) **8.15** Johnson and Friends (5985593) **8.25** Spot (5976845) **8.35** The Record (6376512) **9.00** The Worried Well (1208628) **9.15** Life Goes on in the Kalahari (5792425) **10.00** Playdays (2744357) **10.25** The Fugitive (8571932) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (4222280) **11.40** Flash Gordon (5032767) **12.00** See Hear! (35512) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (63883) **1.00** Spot (82577864) **1.05** Johnson and Friends (99042845)
1.15 FILM: The North Star (b/w, 1943) starring Anne Baxter and Farley Granger. Second World War drama about a group of Soviet peasants defying the Nazis. Directed by Lewis Mileston (72844845)
3.00 News (T) (7430390) **3.05** Westminster with Nick Ross (T) (2781628) **3.55** News (6240796) **4.00** Today's the Day (13) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (15) **5.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (4917593) **5.40** Lifetimes in a Day (442837) **5.50** A Week to Remember (b/w) (949135)
6.00 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (r) (232357) **6.25** Heartbreak High (T) (107048) **7.10** The O Zone (885883)
7.30 THE VERDICT David Rose investigates why barristers are the only professional you can't sue (T) (16)
8.00 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE Manchester v Birkbeck, London (T) (8241)
8.30 FOOD AND DRINK Michael Barry offers advice on taking the stress out of preparing the Christmas dinner. Jilly Goolden and Oz Clarke taste test a *selection of Spanish wines* (T) (4048)

Laurie and French (9.00pm)

9.00 MURDER MOST HORRID: The Body Politic The leader of the Opposition and *his wife make a grisly discovery under the* floorboards. With Dawn French and Hugh Laurie (r) (T) (8086) **WALES: 9.00pm** Never Mind the Buzzcocks
9.30 WHEN ROVER MET BMW: Undercover Operations In the last of the series charting the merger of the two world famous companies, Anglo-German relations are further strained by the resignation of Rover's chief executive (T) (50319)
10.00 NEVER MIND THE BUZZCOCKS Quiz (T) (36241) **WALES: 10.00** The Way It Is
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (304067)
11.15 A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS: Euthanasia (363970)
11.50 PRIDE OF DRESS (r) (651357)
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (34988)
12.30am LEARNING ZONE: Open University — Approaching Literature **1.30** Changing Voices **2.00** OtherWorlds/A-Z of Belief **4.00** BBC Focus: IT **4.30** Unlock in the Classroom **5.00** Inside Europe **5.30** Film Education

CHOICE

Ride On
Channel 4, 8.00pm

There is a lot on cars tonight, but the most diverting item, and one which deserved more space, is about trainspotters. What they get out of it these days, when all locos look alike, never emerges from Muriel Gray's report. But there are reputed to be one million of them and Gray discovers that they are by no means the stereotypical sad lad in the anorak who wears NHS specs who still with mum. *Today's railway enthusiasts include a punk* band, a consortium who bought their own loco and a new breed of photographers who show what they think of privatisation by baring their behinds on railway property. After that the car stuff struggles to compete, though there is a jolly little piece from Istanbul about how American limos from the 1930s are being used as taxis.

Black Box: Crash Detectives
Channel 4, 9.00pm

This is a curious series. It starts by pointing out that flying is the safest form of transport and does its best to disprove this by *highlighting some of the world's worst air* crashes. The heroes are the crash investigators, though they arrive only when it is too late. Airline passengers might be more reassured if the design faults were not there in the first place. Today's anthology of aviation disasters, assembled in no discernible order, includes the DC10 crash near Paris in 1974, the worst to that date, and the still unexplained demise of TWA 800 off the United States in July. The programme also goes back to the 1940s and early 1950s to recall the accident-prone story of the Comet. The world's first jet passenger aircraft began as a British triumph but became a British embarrassment.

When Rover Met BMW
BBC2, 9.30pm

The final part of Jill Nicholls's anatomy of a motoring marriage highlights the obsessive secrecy surrounding the development of new models. Although the cameras were allowed to cover the testing of a new Land Rover in Yorkshire, the company made jolly sure that nothing was given away. The footage is so indistinct that the vehicle could be anything. There is a similar blurring of the film's main story, the resignation of Rover's British chief executive, John Towers, and his replacement by a German from Munich. The move is never convincingly explained, least of all by Towers himself, who seems more concerned with improving his golf handicap than upsetting his erstwhile bosses. The incident is typical of the series which has been strong on Anglo-German cultural differences but seldom got past the boardroom door.

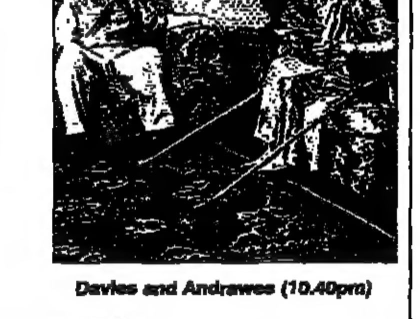
Network First: The Widow, the Terrorist and the SAS
ITV, 10.40pm

Souhaila Andrawes was one of four Palestinians who hijacked a German plane to Somalia in 1977. The only terrorist to survive when the plane was stormed by German special forces and the British SAS, she is living in Norway and fighting extradition to Germany to stand trial for murder. She has a perhaps surprising ally in Barry Davies, one of the SAS men involved in the operation to free the hostages. He has come to sympathise with the Palestinian cause and reckons that Andrawes, who was badly wounded in the shootout and has already been in prison, has suffered enough. Monika Schumann, widow of the pilot shot dead by the terrorists, not surprisingly takes a different view. In the tense finale of a cleverly mounted documentary she meets Andrawes face-to-face in Oslo.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7223425)
9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (4159048)
9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2721406)
10.00 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (25222)
10.30 THIS MORNING (60060845)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (T) (5925131)
12.30 NEWS and weather (T) (9049970)
12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (9024661) **1.25** High Road (T) (3231614) **2.00** Home and Away (T) (83563244) **2.25** Cross Wits (60513929) **2.50** Vanessa (3027970)
3.20 NEWS (T) (7447680)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7446951)
3.30 POTAMUS PARK (9753113) **3.40** Wizadora (1520574) **3.50** Zot the Dog (1658749) **4.05** Garfield and Friends (2340222) **4.15** Hey Arnold! (1126951)
4.40 THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO PARTIES (T) (1109425)
5.10 WHAT'S MY LINE? (7603593)
5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (749661)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (229883)
6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (487796)
7.00 EMMERDALE (T) (3319)
7.30 THE MIDDLE AGES: Forever Young Ray Gosling meets middle-aged people who want to stay young forever (r) (70)
8.00 THE BILL DCI Meadows decides to investigate the unsolved murder of a prostitute (T) (2067)
8.30 THE COOK REPORT The investigative reporter uncovers more shady deals and unscrupulous conmen (T) (1574)
9.00 SOLDIER, SOLDIER Hobbs is captured by the Caravian army and the boys turn back to look for him (T) (3883)
10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (30067)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (529999)



Davies and Andrawes (10.40pm)

10.40 NETWORK FIRST: The Widow, the Terrorist and the SAS Twenty years after terrorist's highjacked a plane at Mogadishu, Somalia the terrorist, Souhaila Andrawes who survived, the commando, Barry Davies who tried to kill her and the pilot's widow, Monika Schumann meet to reflect on the event (T) (597680)
11.40 WEST EYE VIEW UPDATE (582628)
12.10am HITCHCOCK PRESENTS (2654162)
12.40 FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (6536029)
1.30 FILM: THE BOY IN BLUE (1986) starring Nicolas Cage, Cynthia Dale and Christopher Plummer. Biopic about Ned Hanlan, the Canadian rowing champion of the late 1800s whose records remained unbeaten for many decades. Directed by Charles Jarrott (121278)
3.15 LATE & LOUD (2385902)
4.10 THE CHART SHOW (r) (3870742)
5.00 FRANCIS BISSELL'S WESTCOUNTRY CHRISTMAS (99520)
5.30 NEWS (55471)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9024661)
1.25 CROSS WITS (30675222)
1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29058593)
2.20 VANESSA (89963280)
2.50 FROM THE GROUND UP (3027970)
5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7603593)
6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (487796)
7.30-8.00 THE TUESDAY SPECIAL (70)
11.40 HIGHLANDER (347932)
12.40am Film: DANGER ISLAND (466181)
2.20 LATE & LOUD (3130636)
3.15 FUNNY BUSINESS (67157520)
3.40 FOOTBALL LEAGUE (5739568)
4.20 ITV SPORT CLASSICS (47712013)
4.50 JOBFINDER (79170549)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 EMMERDALE (9024661)
1.25-1.55 CROSSWITS (30675222)
1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21681574)
2.25 VANESSA (80313721)
2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (8623770)
5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7603593)
6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (75628)
7.30-8.00 BLOOMING MARVELLOUS (70)
11.40 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (347932)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55 CROSS WITS (9024661)
1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30675222)
1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (29058593)
2.20 VANESSA (89963280)
2.50-3.20 ON YOUR MARKS (3027970)
5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7603593)
6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (26)
6.30-7.00 WHAT'S MY LINE? (86)
7.30-8.00 CROWN AND COUNTRY (70)
11.40 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (347932)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WITS (9024661) **1.25 HOME AND AWAY** (30675222) **1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND** (29058593) **2.20 VANESSA** (89963280) **2.50-3.20 CRAWSHAW PAINTS CONSTABLE COUNTRY** (3027970) **5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET** (7603593) **6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS** (86) **7.30-8.00 OUT TO LUNCH WITH BRIAN TURNER** (70) **11.40 WISEGUY** (347932)

S4C

Starts: 6.30am WISH KID (32512) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (60883) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (17116) **9.30 Film: THE GOLDWYN FOLLIES** (79280390) **11.35 HIGHLAND JOURNEY** (3557262) **12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE** (20680) **12.30pm TRUMPTON** (91151609) **12.45 ALFIE ATKINS** (91149864) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (63970) **1.30 Film: MYSTERY STREET** (53313883) **3.15 RICKI LAKE** (9859135) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (99) **4.30 SHORT STORIES: WE LOVE YOU ALAN SHEARER!** (83) **5.00 5 PUMP** (4425) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (35) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (128715) **6.05 HENO** (207661) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (496628) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (507593) **7.25 BRODYR BACH** (765406) **8.00 HEATHER** (3339) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (9116) **9.00 ACHABACHYN: LLINEINIAU A DWR POETH** (211749) **9.45 POBL Y PWLL** (852796) **10.00 BROOKSIDE** (983169) **10.35 DROP THE DEAD DONKEY** (325609) **11.05 NORTHERN EXPOSURE** (117628) **12.00 THE SAGA OF LIFE** (11742) **1.00am TRAVELS WITH MY CAMERA** (78094)

CHANNEL 4

6.30am WISH KID (32512) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (60883) **9.00** Here's One I Made Earlier (17116)
9.30 FILM: The Goldwyn Follies (1938, b/w). George and Ira Gershwin musical starring Adolphe Menjou. Directed by George Marshall (79280390)
11.35 HIGHLAND JOURNEY (3557262) **12.00** House To House (20680) **12.30pm** Trumpton (r) (91151609) **12.45** Alfie Atkins (r) (91149864) **1.00** Sesame Street (9251628) **1.55** The Vertical Load (10418661) **2.05** How to be American (70634932)
2.15 FILM: Where the Sidewalk Ends (1950, b/w) starring Dana Andrews as a New York policeman who murders a suspect under interrogation and tries to frame a gangster for the crime. Directed by Otto Preminger (T) (256680)
4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (T) (99)
4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (83)
5.00 RICKI LAKE (T) (2777241)
5.45 POND LIFE (T) (484208)
6.00 BABYLON 5 (r) (T) (674135)
6.50 FRESH POP (791845)
7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (505951)
7.55 THE SLOT (822574)

Muriel meets trainspotters (8.00pm)

8.00 RIDE ON Muriel Gray meets a new breed of trainspotter who prefer to call themselves "rail enthusiasts" (6/7) (T) (3339)
8.30 BROOKSIDE Jimmy and Jackie face up to their son's drug-related death. Ron begins to realise just how big a mistake he has made (T) (9116)
9.00 BLACK BOX: Crash Detectives Focusing on the investigation teams at two crash sites — *TWA 800 which exploded in mid-air* earlier this year and the Valujet crash (T) (1425)
10.00 DROP THE DEAD DONKEY Topical comedy set in a television newsroom. Henry has a mid-life crisis, Sally makes an exhibition of herself and Damien discovers that he is not indestructible after all (T) (983169)
10.35 WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY? Satirical new quiz (r) (325609)
11.05 NORTHERN EXPOSURE *Off-beat* comedy (T) (117628)
12.00 LUMBERJACKS OK! Michael Palin takes a look at Squamish Day (3/6) (6400297)
12.35am THE VILLAGE (8246933)
1.05 THE WHITE ROOM With Manic Street *Preachers (r)* (2732758)
2.10 POSITIVE VIBRATIONS The music of Jamaica (r) (T) (5439075)
3.40 FILM: Period of Adjustment (1962). An adaptation of Tennessee Williams's first light comedy, starring Jane Fonda and Jim Hutton as newlyweds. Directed by George Roy Hill (966094). Ends at **5.40**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4709135) 7.20 Press Your Luck (4729999) 7.40 Jeopardy! (3946319) 8.10 Hotel (5391116) 9.00 Another World (4557749) 9.45 Oprah Winfrey (7634241) 10.40 Real TV (4564154) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (9196154) 12.00 Geraldo (97884) 1.00pm 1 to 3 (64135) 3.00 Jenny Jones (30721) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (22086) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (7721) 6.00 New Adventures of Superman (93048) 7.00 The Simpsons (1680) 7.30 M*A*S*H (9703) 8.00 Springhill (7628) 8.30 Murder Unsolved (6135) 9.00 Oprah Special: John Travolta (23203) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (26390) 11.00 New Adventures of Superman (56725) 12.00 L.A.P.D. (98100) 12.30am Real TV (58094) 1.00 Hit Mix

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1782154) 8.00 Sliders (1788574) 9.00 Renegade (1788338) 10.00 New York Undercover (1781425) 11.00 Late Show, with David Letterman (1106048) 12.00 FILM: The Alf Garnett Saga (2435094) 2.00am Hit Mix Long Play (8512758)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Wind and the Lion (1974) (64970) 8.00 Best Shot (1986) (88951) 10.00 A Perfect Couple (1979) (89845) 12.00 Sweet Talker (1990) (58574) 2.00pm The Borrowers (TVM 1973) (40970) 4.00 Troop Beverly Hills (1989) (5883) 6.00 The Hudsucker Proxy (1994) (97406) 8.00 Chasers (1994) (32951) 10.00 Pulp Fiction (1994) (77209609) 12.35am When the Bough Breaks (1993) (235406) 2.20 Day of Reckoning (1994) (27655) 3.50 M Butterfly (1993)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tropic Zone (1953) (48203) 7.30 The New Adventures of Little Toot (1993) (41390) 8.30 Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1987) (54932) 10.00 Dead Man's Revenge (1993) (10715) 12.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994) (58116) 2.00pm Midnight Runaround (1994) (48512) 4.00 My Neighbour Totoro (1993) (3425) 6.00 Spring Fling! (1995) (68777) 7.30 Special Feature: Arnold Schwarzenegger (3203) 8.00 Rob Roy (1995) (94014222) 10.20 Full Eclipse (1993) (685336) 12.00 The Most Desired Man (1994) (856655) 1.40am Bloodlust: Subspecies III (1993) (2072297) 3.05 Incident at Deception Ridge (1994) (695568) 4.40 Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1987) (44840723)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Daddy Long Legs (1955) (37471883) 6.10 Bachelor Mother (1939) (30810593) 8.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992) (3423796) 10.00 Big Trouble in Little China (1986) (9731086) 11.45 The French Connection (1971) (2129154) 1.30am The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (3368278) 3.00-5.05 Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) (55803297)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (4455425) 6.25 Quack Attack (4434932) 6.50 Bonkers (9348512) 7.15 Darkwing Duck (5291834) 7.40 Aladdin (3735512) 8.05 Goof Troop (3236883) 8.30 Timon and Pumbaa (3563116) 8.40 Sing Me a Story (8496845) 9.05 Groundling Marsh (5083845) 9.30 Big Garage (3545932) 9.45 Lamb Chop (557406) 10.15 Muppet Babies (4962898) 10.40 Wonderland (7067609) 11.10 Mouse Tracks (8492406) 11.40 Under the Umbrella Tree (9657067) 12.10pm Fraggle Rock (3295628) 12.35 Lamb Chop (1965932) 1.05 Goof Troop (82536999) 1.30 Aladdin (94781116) 1.55 Darkwing Duck (94789135) 2.25 Bonkers (88282999) 2.50 Quack Attack (3677086) 3.20 Timon and Pumbaa (9186222) 3.30 Goof Troop (7274116) 3.55 Timon and Pumbaa (1672135) 4.05 Goof Troop (3563357) 4.35 Bonkers (2764406) 5.00 Aladdin (7896406) 5.25 Timon and Pumbaa (3209135) 5.35 Darkwing Duck (476574) 6.00 Flash Forward (7067) 6.30 Blossom (8319) 7.00 Dave's World (1777) 7.30 FILM: Escape to Witch Mountain (77680) 9.00 Eyewitness (95970) 9.30-10.00 Golden Girls (20241)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (37593) 7.30 Rebel Sports (56828) 8.00 Football: Tartan Extra (55425) 8.30 Racing News (54796) 9.00 Sports Centre (45048) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (82067) 10.00 Spanish Football (62203) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (58512) 12.30pm Monday Night Football (74154) 2.30 Spanish Football (73992) 4.30 Motorsports: World of Speed and Beauty (8390) 4.59 Sports Centre (2324390) 5.00 World Wrestling Federation: Blast Off (2864) 6.00 Sports Centre (9883) 6.30 Football: Hall of Fame — Kempes (1785) 7.00 Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (929512) 10.00 Sports Centre (59241) 10.30 The Footballers' Football Show (85785) 11.30 Football: Hall of Fame — Kempes (18970) 12.00 Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (4210384) 3.00am The Footballers' Football Show (57810) 4.00-4.30 Sports Centre (26549)

SKY SPORTS 3

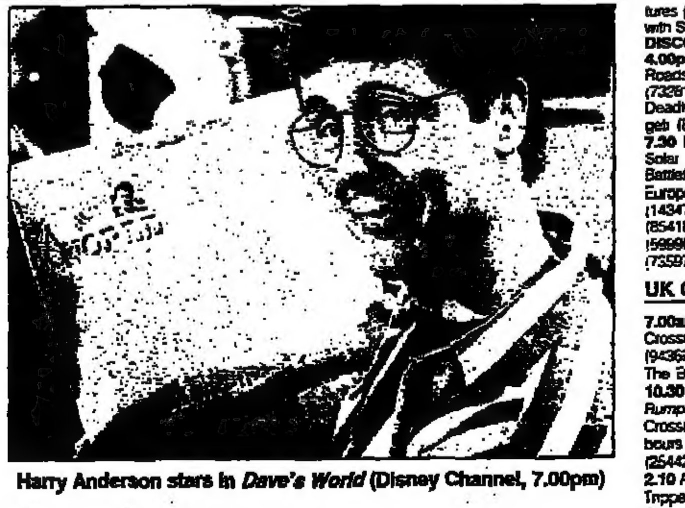
12.00 Tennis: Grand Slam Cup — Live (78160932) 6.00pm Max Out (83278845) 6.30 Rebel Sports (83292425) 7.00 Sports Centre (41578932) 7.30 NBA Basketball: Detroit v LA Lakers (31443864) 9.30 NHL Phoenix v New Jersey (29704970) 11.30-12.00 Sports Centre (94726845)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Triathlon: International Grand Prix (96854) 8.30 Eurofun (49864) 9.00 Speedworld (91203) 11.00 Football: Eurogoals (27116) 12.00 Boxing: International 10 Rounds Middleweight (90086) 1.00pm Surfing: World Longboard Championship (21932) 1.30 Snowboarding (70222) 2.00 Bobsleigh: World Cup (86796) 4.00 Tennis: Brno Exhibition — Live (53970) 5.00 Football: FIFA Futsal World Championship — Live (5786086) 6.15 Motorsport (719932) 7.00 Boxing — Live (42425) 9.00 Football: UEFA Cup Third Round Second Leg (77048) 11.00-12.30am Snooker: European League (12154)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Runway (6242135) 6.30 Sounds Like a Story (29819864) 6.45 Time for a Story (82326357) 7.00 Alphabet Zoo (7710932) 7.15 Sounds Like a Story (8715512) 7.30 The Ghosts of Motley Hall (1700609) 8.00 Classic Coronation Street (1014680) 8.30 Runway (1013951) 9.00 Families (1004203) 9.30 Crown Court (5531406) 10.00 World in Action (6517222) 10.30 Glamour Girls (1033715) 11.00 Coasting (1719357) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (1024067) 12.30pm A Fine Romance (5535222) 1.00 Crown Court (1780845) 1.30 Families (5534593) 2.00



Harry Anderson stars in *Dave's World* (Disney Channel, 7.00pm)

Made In Heaven (8518951) 3.00 Glamour Girls (1104203) 3.30 Family Affairs (1904406) 4.00 Poirot (2654048) 5.00 Medics (1128883) 6.00 Classic Coronation Street (1993390) 6.30 Families (1917970) 7.00 The Grumbleweeds Radio Show (1129512) 7.30 A Fine Romance (1913154) 8.00 Medics (8943777) 9.00 Classic Coronation Street (2476357) 9.35 The Good Life Guide (2427884) 10.00-11.00 Poirot (8969629)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV, High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith and Keith Floyd
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: HG Wells (2301970) 5.00 The Longest Hatred (1074999) 6.00 The World at War (4547154) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Orson Welles (6007357)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from 8pm-4am Monday to Wednesday and 1am-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-4am every day on cable.
8.00pm Amazing Stories (1061048) 8.30 Twilight Zone (1063883) 9.00 Battlestar Galactica (6096241) 10.00 The New Edge (1597048) 10.30 C/Net Central (1506796) 11.00 Friday the 13th (2306319) 12.00 The Incredible Hulk (6816568) 1.00am Twilight Zone (6941384) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (6522636) 2.00 New Alfred Hitchcock (3453162) 2.30 Night Gallery (3472297) 3.00 Friday the 13th (5335810) 3.55-4.00 Quests (78788013)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4105086) 9.30 The Great Gardening Plot (2473425) 10.00 Go Fishing (9751593) 10.30 House Style (4195970) 11.00 The Restoration Game (1877681) 11.30 Craftwise (1878390) 12.00 Two's Country Cooking (4186222) 12.30pm Graham Kerr (2477241) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (1424319) 1.30 Home Again, with Bob Vila (2476512) 2.00 Furniture to Go (7337864) 2.30 Secret Gardens (8687796) 3.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (7352999) 3.30-4.00 This Old House, with Steve and Norm (8682241)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures (8678048) 4.30 Roadshow (8667932) 5.00 Time Travellers (7328116) 5.30 Terra X (8681512) 6.00 Deadly Australians (8688425) 6.30 Serengeti (8679777) 7.00 Next Step (7331680) 7.30 Mysterious Universe (8668651) 8.00 Solar System Azimuth (1102338) 9.00 Battlefields (1182574) 10.00 Victory in Europe (1185661) 11.00 The Astronomers (1434796) 12.00 Frontline Stories (8541810) 1.00am The Extremists (5989655) 1.30-2.00 The Specialists (7359723)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2188951) 7.35 Crossroads (2882390) 8.00 Neighbours (9436970) 8.25 EastEnders (2894864) 9.00 The Bill (4175116) 9.30 Angels (8352951) 10.30 The Sullivans (4104628) 11.00 Rumpole of the Bailey (1415661) 12.00 Crossroads (40011777) 12.25pm Neighbours (40014864) 12.55 EastEnders (25442715) 1.30 The Liver Birds (1484116) 2.10 After the Show Short (28585628) 2.25 Tripper's Day (7124067) 3.00 Sale of the Century (7352357) 3.30 The Bill (8691999) 4.00 Miss Marple (1800999) 5.00 EastEnders (6591241) 5.35 Crossroads (5421390) 6.00 Shelley (8680883) 6.30 Bread (7774048) 7.05 Bob's Full House (6371680) 7.45 The Best of Top of the Pops (6911154) 8.30 Executive Stress (7338593) 9.00 The Sweeney (1184932) 10.00 The Bill (4569067) 10.35 Naked Video (6002606) 11.10 The Equalizer (2360338) 12.10am Fourth Arm (6883177) 1.05 Best of the Blues Brothers (6398433) 2.05 Shopping at Night (5583704)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (4444319) 6.20 Meltdown (4448135) 6.45 Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (313226) 7.15 Ready or Not (563749) 7.45 California Dreams (418690) 8.15 Sweet Valley High (565425) 8.45 Art Attack (9876067) 9.00 Tiny and Crew (9152796) 9.20 Brum (9132932) 9.40 Johnson and Friends (2762615) 10.00 Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (7017767) 10.20 Philbert the Frog (6853951) 10.40 Charlie Chalk (4740593) 11.00 Dinobabies (88880) 11.30 Jim Henson's Animal Show (96609) 12.00 Barney (85680) 12.30pm Where's Wally? (13951) 1.00 Casper and Friends (83048) 1.30 Tiny and Crew (84787390) 1.55 Johnson and Friends (41268222) 2.20 Bump (29498767) 2.40 Mr Benn (2360785) 3.00 Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (5970) 3.30 Ready or Not (4357) 4.00 California Dreams (3864) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (9048)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (10154) 6.30 Biker Mice (77208) 7.00 Rocko (2959965) 7.15 Hey Arnold (7611609) 7.30 Rugrats (47970) 8.00 Doug (53067) 8.30 Aaahh! Real Monsters (52338) 9.00 Carmen Sandiego (36390) 9.30 Wishbone (80609) 10.00 Bananas in Pyjamas (7339680) 10.10 Katie and Orbie (3680222) 10.35 Mr Men (2453970) 10.45 Bananas in Pyjamas (2440406) 11.00 Clarissa (84628) 12.30pm Sister Sister (84425) 1.00 Babar (34406) 1.30 Katie and Orbie (63796) 2.00 Little Bear Stories (7319) 2.30 Stickin Around (81154) 4.00 Bruno the Kid (7048) 4.30 Rugrats (8596715) 4.45 Doug (8584970) 5.00 Sister Sister (1999) 5.30 Moesha (6852) 6.00 Round the Twist (7425) 6.30-7.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8777)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (1135) 7.30 Benson (7661) 8.00 Due South (70135) 9.00 Almost Perfect (62628) 9.30 Taxi (64661) 10.00 Entertainment UK (57883) 10.30 Girls on Top (33203) 11.00 Asylum (34845) 11.30 Nightstand (30951) 12.30am Sledge Hammer! (92452) 1.00 Due South (79128) 2.00 Entertainment UK (32639) 2.30 Asylum (11346) 3.00 Girls on Top (82164) 3.30-4.00 Almost Perfect (35926)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2450574) 1.00pm Remington Steele (2469222) 2.00 Automan (9756048) 3.00 The Champions (1676932) 4.00 FILM: Sam Whiskey (7347241) 6.00 Thunderbirds (2489086) 7.00 The Champions (1180116) 8.00 Starsky and Hutch (1199864) 9.00 Crime Story (1119628) 10.00-12.00 FILM: Horror Hospital

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1799883) 7.00 The Agony Experience (1333628) 7.30 The Young and the Restless (3705406) 8.20 Gourmet Ireland (1684932) 8.55 Turnabout (8996338) 9.35 Trivial Pursuit (2422082) 10.00 Entertainment Now! (6956593) 10.05 The Jerry Springer Show (1459715) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (1064406) 11.55 Brookside (22789241) 12.25pm Call the Doctor (40575512) 12.50 Gabrielle (2159861) 1.40 Rolonda (9726574) 2.30 The Agony Experience (2690970) 3.00 Live at Three (5649338) 4.00 Who's Sorry Now? (2681222) 4.30 Talkabout (2848241) 5.05 Lingo (45034048) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (2601086) 6.00 I Dream of Jeannie (2608999) 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (3535311) 7.05 Brookside (4524319) 7.35 Trivial Pursuit (4158864) 8.00 General Practice (3410222) 9.00 FILM: Cradle of Conspiracy (59886654) 10.40 Entertainment Now! (2489883) 11.00-12.00 The Spicy Sex Files (1319048)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (7715) 5.30 Treasure Hunt (84970) 6.30 Catchphrase (4593) 7.00 The Pyramid Game (7951) 7.30 Hart to Hart (69767) 8.30 Duty Free (2406) 9.00 Bergerac (36715) 10.00 Stay Lucky (91334) 11.00 Rising Damp (70661) 11.30 Evening Shade (66883) 12.00 Lou Grant (17988) 1.00am Bergerac (40384) 2.00 Hart to Hart (94278) 3.00 Lou Grant (53128) 4.00 All Together Now (69907) 4.30-5.00 The Black Stallion (48839)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Cricket: India v South Africa 8.00 Lifestyle East 9.00 Tamil Serial: En Uyir Revathe 9.30 Urdu Serial: Nangey Paon 10.30 Kurukshetra 11.00 Khoobsurat 11.30 Urdu Serial: Ba Adap Ba Mulahiza Hoshiar 12.30pm Nukkad 1.00 Hindi FILM: Ek Kunwara Ek Kunwari 4.00 Film Deewane 4.30 Flop Show 5.00 ZEE Zone 5.30 Hum Zameen 6.00 Dance Mania 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 Cricket: India v South Africa 8.00 News 8.30 Daraar 9.00 Jaal 9.30 Abhinetri 10.00 Tara 11.00-12.00 Sa Re Ga Ma

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
9.00pm The Three Godfathers (1948) (41429425) 11.00 Mrs Miniver (1942) (16867883) 1.15am A Very Private Affair (1962) (17338346) 2.55-5.00 The Three Godfathers (1948) (54815988)

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
Denver's confidence mile-high after record sequence

SPORT

TENNIS 49
Dramatic final confirms Davis Cup's credibility

Keegan demands discipline

Safe European home sought by Newcastle

By David Maddock

ON THE flight back from France after the first leg of their Uefa Cup third-round tie, the only worry that consumed the Newcastle United players was to arrive safely back in Blighty. It appeared qualification was virtually guaranteed after a 1-1 draw, and their thoughts were, instead, fully occupied by a horrendous take-off at snow-bound Metz airport.

The plane made it back to Newcastle, of course, but such a harrowing journey, buffeted by howling snowstorms and gales that raged across the Continent, may have offered a clue that the second leg is not as straightforward as it seemed after that fulfilling evening in the medieval town. Newcastle enter the game tonight on the back of a performance against Arsenal on Saturday that Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, described as the worst his side has produced this season. The alarm bells are clearly ringing at St James' Park after the perplexing 2-1 defeat and Keegan displayed more than a hint of nervousness in his voice yesterday when he addressed the contest this evening.

"I could tell from this morning's training session that the players were hurt," he said of the Arsenal game. "I imagine they drove home on Saturday knowing that the performance wasn't acceptable, either for the fans or the chairman, who has put so much money into this club. It is about pride, and we didn't look as if we wanted to win. But they have to learn, and learn quickly, because if we play like that again we will be out of this competition."

Keegan has set much store by the Uefa Cup this season. He believes that Newcastle are good enough to win a European trophy and is determined to do so, if only to prove that English football is the equal of its continental counterparts.

There was nothing to suggest in Metz that the French club is capable of preventing progress to the quarter-final, but that was before Newcastle's inexplicably listless display on Saturday. The game was still dominating the agenda yesterday, not least for the allegation against Alan Shearer that he contributed to the dismissal of Tony Adams.

Shearer was quick to refute such a suggestion. Newcastle must concentrate, he said, on rebuilding confidence for the game tonight rather than dwelling too long on past results. "Tony shouldn't have been sent off, and there is no problem between us," he said.

If there was a gloom pervading the Newcastle training ground yesterday, then it must surely have been lifted a little by news from the opposition camp. Newcastle endured a physical contest in the first leg, with Ginola and Batty, in particular, receiving rough treatment. Now, it seems, the French team are worried about what awaits them.

Isaias, the Brazilian, was involved in a skirmish with Batty and he has apparently been fined £5,000 for throwing a punch at the England international. He could also be dropped, and the inference from Joel Muller, the Metz coach, was that his midfield player does not possess the stomach for a return.

"He is nervous, and there is no room for that," Muller said. "It is a matter of temperament, and I am not sure he has enough discipline for a match like this. I cannot forgive what he did in the first leg."

Keegan is likely to give the team that was embarrassed on Saturday a chance to redeem itself this evening, despite threats of major changes immediately after the game. "I am not a manager who does go in for many changes," he said yesterday. There is one change he does demand from his players, though: that they show more discipline. "If we do that, we will go through," he said.

Anderton struck by new injury setback

DARREN ANDERTON, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfield player, could be sidelined until the new year (Russell Kempson writes). He twisted a medial ligament in his left knee during the 6-1 Coca-Cola Cup fourth-round defeat against Bolton Wanderers last week and is not expected to play again for at least four weeks.

Anderton, 24, has been plagued by injuries over the past two seasons. Groin surgery restricted him to only nine club appearances last term, though he recovered in time to feature in England's five matches during Euro 96.

He has fared little better this season and, after playing eight games, he had another operation — his fourth since he moved from Portsmouth for £1.75 million four years ago — to repair a hernia. In his third game back, at Burnden Park last Wednesday, he was injured again.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, received better news yesterday when Steffen Iversen, the Norway Under-21 and Rosenborg striker, signed a five-year contract at White Hart Lane. The clubs have agreed a fee of £2.6 million for one of Europe's most highly-rated youngsters. He could make his debut against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Saturday.

Middlesbrough confirmed yesterday that they made a bid for the Barcelona defender, Miguel Angel Nadal, although the sum involved was not revealed. Manchester United also want to sign Nadal.

DAVID GILES

Atherton considers England's unconvincing start to the tour during nets at the Harare Sports Club yesterday

Russell faces Test exclusion

From Simon Wilde in Harare

ENGLAND intend to leave out Jack Russell, their best wicketkeeper, for the first Test match against Zimbabwe, which starts on December 18. Alec Stewart is again likely to fill the dual role as batsman — though in the less familiar position of No 3 — and wicketkeeper, to allow them to play five bowlers in the search for an attack with real bite. For a match against the weakest Test nation in the world, this is an indictment indeed.

The decision is also a stern reflection on the unpromising start made by Ronnie Irani, the only bowling all-rounder in the party. He presented the only other option to give the side balance, but it is clearly felt, even at this early stage of the tour, that his bowling lacks penetration. He may yet find a way into the side if the decision is taken to play four seamers rather than the now expected three.

The England management has "shown its hand" (to use the words of David Lloyd, the coach, yesterday) so far in advance of the Test series because it wants to allow its chosen XI the chance to play in the two four-day games before the first Test in Bulawayo. The first begins today against Mashonaland and the second, against Matabeleland, takes place next week.

ENGLAND XI (v Mashonaland): M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell, A D Mullally.

Judging by what will be in operation today, the first-choice bowling attack will consist of Mullally, Gough and Caddick as the three seamers and Tufnell and Croft as spinners, though Gough and Caddick are not fully fit. Gough has blistered feet and Caddick has not recovered from a viral infection. The uncapped Silverwood is the only other seamer, apart from Irani.

Whether five England bowlers will actually be any more effective than four is a moot point. All but Gough of the five earmarked to play took part in the one-day defeat by the President's XI on Sunday and scarcely struck fear into the hearts of a modestly strong side.

To facilitate Stewart's role with minimum disruption, he will not continue to open the innings, a role that would have been subject to late change if Stewart had experienced a long day in the field. Instead, Atherton will open with Knight, a combination that has the added advantage of bringing right-hander and left-hander together.

This is far from the first time Stewart and Russell have been asked — in different ways — to pay the price for the absence of a genuine batting and bowling all-rounder. Indeed, it happened in England's last Test match, in August, when they needed to beat Pakistan and Russell received an immediate assurance that he would tour.

Russell, who in June scored a fine defiant century against India at Lord's, said yesterday of his likely omission that he would be "telling a lie if I said that it did not hurt". But the Test series is still a fortnight away and a lot can happen in that time to change England's thinking.

"I have to try to remain optimistic," Russell said. "Anything can happen and I will certainly be making sure I am ready for every game. Although it hurts at the moment it won't deter me from fighting on."

Rogan in on merit for match against Albania

ANTON ROGAN keeps his place in Northern Ireland's squad for the doubtful World Cup group nine qualifying match against Albania in Belfast on Saturday week. The Millwall defender received an eleventh hour call-up last month when Keith Rowland was taken ill and pulled out of the trip to Nuremberg.

The former Sunderland and Celtic player then went on against Germany as a second-half substitute for Neil Lennon to make sure Bryan Hamilton's side gained a 1-1 draw.

Rowland, of West Ham United, rejoins what is an otherwise unchanged squad as Northern Ireland wait to see if the game goes ahead.

Hamilton said: "Anton did well in Germany and he's in again on merit. It was his first appearance for four years and he gave his international career the kiss of life."

The Irish FA has been told by Fifa to carry on as normal while negotiations aimed at lifting Albania's ban from the World Cup continue.

Last week the Tirana government suspended the Albanian FA secretary and his executive committee. Albania's Sports Minister claimed the FA had flouted civil law by not holding elections for committee places. But Fifa insisted it would not tolerate political interference and called for the suspended officials to be reinstated.

The Albanians have been given until Saturday to comply, although the IFA is pressing for a decision within the next 48 hours and remains optimistic that the match will proceed as planned. Hamilton said: "I'm proceeding on the basis that the game will be played."

Against Albania Northern Ireland are looking for their first home World Cup win after losing to Ukraine and drawing with Armenia at Windsor Park.

Nigel Worthington, of Stoke City, has to prove his fitness this week during training with his club. He could not play in Germany because of back trouble and has not appeared in any games since.

SQUAD: T Wright (Nottingham Forest), A Fettis (Nottingham Forest), N Worthington, G McMahon (both Stoke City), A Rogan (Millwall), K Gillespie (Newcastle United), M Hughes, I Dowie, K Rowland (all West Ham United), N Lennon, C Hill (both Leicester City), S Lomas (Manchester City), G Taggart (Bolton Wanderers), B Hunter (Reading), Gray (Nancy), T Horlock (Swindon Town), D Griffin (St Johnstone), S Morrow (Arsenal), I Nolan (Sheffield Wednesday).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 955

ACROSS
3 Impediment (8)
7 Chessman, symbol N (6)
8 Lengthen (6)
9 Savoury mouthful (6)
10 (Wonderful; imaginary) sight (6)
11 Cheeky (4)
13 Force out (esp. with thumb) (5)
15 Personal belongings: toothed wheel system (4)
17 Trusted (older) advisor (6)
18 High point (of sky) (6)
19 Burning (with zeal, love) (6)
20 Utterly delight; rape (6)
21 Four-year inter-games period (8)

DOWN
1 Hire; join (battle) (6)
2 Horrified (6)
3 Shakespeare's Moor (7)
4 A woven fabric (7)
5 Plausible (8)
6 Put at risk (8)
11 Graphite; leadwort (8)
12 For which one saves up (5,3)
13 Adult (5,2)
14 (Bird's) muscular stomach (7)
15 Red Cross HQ city (6)
16 Swear to (truth of) (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 954

ACROSS: 1 Quietus 5 Bijou 8 Agile 9 Oversee 10 Eldorado 11 Rind 13 State-of-the-art 16 Page 17 Corridor 20 Palermo 21 Crack 22 Lucky 23 Rockery

DOWN: 1 Quakers 2 Iliad 3 Theories 4 Sword of Honour 5 Bier 6 Jessica 7 Upend 12 Thoracic 14 Angelic 15 Turnkey 16 Pupil 18 Drape 19 Prey

Giddins cashes in on infamy

Andrew Longmore talks to the cricketer proving all publicity is good publicity

It was one of the more bizarre venues for a confession — standing in a draughty, disused shop at the less fashionable end of Sheen, surrounded by assorted Christmas trees and silver-painted candlesticks — but cricketers have to make a winter living somehow and Ed Giddins finds no shame in using his new-found notoriety to pay for his winter holiday. "Don't forget to mention the trees and the address of the shop, boys." Now where were we? Oh yes, cocaine and cricket.

Giddins furrowed his brow at the suggestion that the promotion of a name remembered rather more for a positive drug test than for weight of wickets in the cause of Sussex, his former county, smacked of cynicism. "Do you think so?"

No matter. When 1,000 Christmas trees need shifting in 21 days, any publicity has to be good for business. Apart from dribs and drabs after his failed appeal, Giddins has not spoken on the record about his ban or the circumstances leading up to it.

"Let's put it this way," he said, picking his words very carefully. "I was at a party and I was [lengthy pause] not as careful as I should have been [lengthy pause]. Now can we get something in about the trees, boys?" He still maintains that his drink was spiked, that he was not an habitual cocaine user and that the miniscule amount, a thirtieth of a gram (street value, about £2.50), found in his sample hardly justified the career-threatening penalty imposed on him, initially by his county, who sacked him, then by the Test and County Cricket Board, who banned him from all first-class, representative and minor counties cricket until April 1, 1998.

Giddins has half a point. What use is served by stopping one of our more talented young fast bowlers from doing what he does best? (No, not selling Christmas trees.)

"If they want me to coach cricket in the South African townships, I'd happily do that. There's nothing constructive in just slapping me out of the game," he said. Except to encourage the others to behave and discourage lurid football-type headlines.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Giddins looks ahead to, perhaps, a lucrative Christmas

At least the football authorities acted with some consistency. Cricket has shown itself to be divided and hypocritical.

A letter from Alan Caffyn, the chairman of Sussex, to members yesterday claimed that as Giddins protested his innocence, it was "not possible to provide any help". Yet counties with hearts full of forgiveness and eyes full of a bargain fell over themselves to offer him a job. The "foolish young man", as Warwickshire patronisingly termed their new signing, could take a handful of wickets in time when he is allowed to return at the age of 27. Giddins has promised as much anyway.

In the meantime, there is business to be done. "Norwegian spruce, £2.50 a foot; Noordmans Fir [non-needle drops], £5.00 a foot. Did you know you can plant 3,000 trees per acre? It takes ten years for a tree to grow and costs about £1 to plant..." The shop, *Trees in Sheen*, opens tomorrow at 226 Upper Richmond Road West, next door to the *Cover Up* clothes shop and just down the road from *Graham Taylor's Bookmakers*. All proceeds to the Ed Giddins holiday fund.

"I know there will always be moralistic people who think I should be castrated. I just think it's harsh to have such a long sentence for such a minor offence," he said. "Now you won't forget the address, will you, boys?"